

AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH SOCCER WEEKLY AUSTRALIA

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SOCCER

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Czech Republic



Marconi & Olympic season reviews





Ericsson Cup Season Review



BY ALISTAIR RUSSELL

Editorial

The rumour mill has it that Canberra Cosmos may be struggling to put a team on the park for the next Ericsson Cup season. They might move to Seiffert Oval in Queanbeyan.

We are led to believe that despite all the will in the world, Perth Glory may have to delay their entry to the National competition due to the lack of a suitable ground.

The question must be asked, exactly where will Collingwood be playing. If it is an AFL ground without modification where you can fit two maximum size soccer pitches, then that is foolhardy.

At least Carlton, yet another AFL club, have announced they will relocate their National team's playing pitch in order to maximise the use of their Aussie Rules oval. Their entry is not scheduled until the 1997/98 season but according to reports that club is planning well ahead.

Why is it we have heard nothing from rugby league clubs with respect to entering teams in the National Soccer League? Surely forward thinking administrators such as Roger Cowan of Penrith Panthers can see the potential. Added to which Penrith have a 'proper' football shaped ground i.e. rectangular.

There is no doubt that our national competition is in the process of change. Some diehards will moan and grumble about the loss of tradition.

However Soccer has seen many ups and downs in its life which started about 1880 in NSW and quickly spread.

Since the Second World War ended, a mere 51 years, Metters, Bellambi, Granville, Canterbury in NSW have been consigned to the history pages.

They were replaced by APIA, Western Suburbs, Auburn, St George, Kuringai, Hakoah. These teams have since gone into decline, merged or disappeared all together. Who can remember Moorabark?

Maybe this is the way in this country. The future could belong to clubs which are an amalgamation of sports, offering their members a variety of entertainment.

Don't let us, the Soccer community, be reactionary or oppose change. By embracing the new world as sports fans our horizons could be broadened dramatically.

10. Marconi Fairfield

The most professionally organised and determined club in the NSL returned to their rightful place at the top of the Ericsson Cup Ladder, dipping out only in the Grand Final to their nemesis this season.

With a new no nonsense coach and an overhaul of the playing staff, Marconi again revelled in the top six dog fight throughout the entire season and gladly repossessed the minor

that finished tenth in the previous season.

At home Marconi were again indomitable, losing only twice to Brisbane and Olympic, while on the road the Stallions dropped just five matches.

Overall Manfred's men held a 100% record over both Newcastle and South's and also remained unbeaten against Morwell, Canberra and Sydney United.

The only side to beat Brisbane in Queensland (in

Sunday, the Fairfielders knuckled down to plot their path to the grand final.

As it turned out Marconi were a little underdone as a semi finalist and the more battle hardened Knights had their measure through three enthralling matches.

Marconi, proving their undoubted pedigree and zest for success after losing a two leg clash with the Knights, came back and obliterated the wily Adelaide City 4-1 in the preliminary final.



STATISTICS

Best: 58 goals netted, 2nd highest.

Best: 60 points, minor premiers.

Best: 7 defeats overall, fewest in Ericsson Cup.

Best: 37 goals at Marconi Stadium, third best.

Most: 19 goals conceded at home, worst of the top 7.

Fewest: 16 goals conceded away, best in the league.

Best Result: 4-1 win over Adelaide City in preliminary final.

Worst Result: Losing 2-1 in the grand final.

Best Run: 5 straight wins from R15-R19.

Favourite Opposition: Souths, 9 points, 9-2.

Worst Opposition: Olympic, 1 point, 2-5.

Most Individual

Goals/Game: Francis Awaritefe 3 v Souths R19.

Top Scorer: Andy Harper 14.

Player Votes:

Matt Bingley 18

Andy Harper 15

Bob Catlin 10

Dominic Longo 9

Francis Awaritefe 7

MARCONI:

Quote of the Year: "I want to do that because if it doesn't happen I won't be around." Manfred Schaefer on bringing credibility back to Marconi.

At the grand finale the Victorians just wanted the victory a little more than the Stallions, but Marconi will prove a better side for their experience in seasons to come.



Andy Harper: One of Marconi's 'workaholics'.

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Bob Catlin: The meanest goalie in the league — on opponents grounds.

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SPORTSCENE

Australia heats up in USA

(Florida Is Steaming)

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

AUSTRALIA'S OLYMPIC SOCCER TEAM, despite severe daily heat conditions nearing 40 degrees celsius, has not slackened off their pace at training sessions at their pre-Games camp based at Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

Australia's Olympic coach Eddie Thomson last night stated to ABSW from the team's base at the Bona Venture Resort Hotel in Fort Lauderdale "The boys have been just absolutely great.

"The heat is quite severe but the humidity is almost

unbearable. It's murder.

"I am so glad that we decided to come here early and even more glad that we had set up another training cap in Townsville before we left Australia.

"I have now decided that we will stay here till the 15th before we move into the actual Olympic Village, as the facilities are much better.

"The training pitches are unbelievable. Like bowling greens.

"They're nothing short of spacious green carpet. Just magnificent.

"Tomorrow (Tuesday) I have planned a golf tournament for the squad on a course which is loaded with

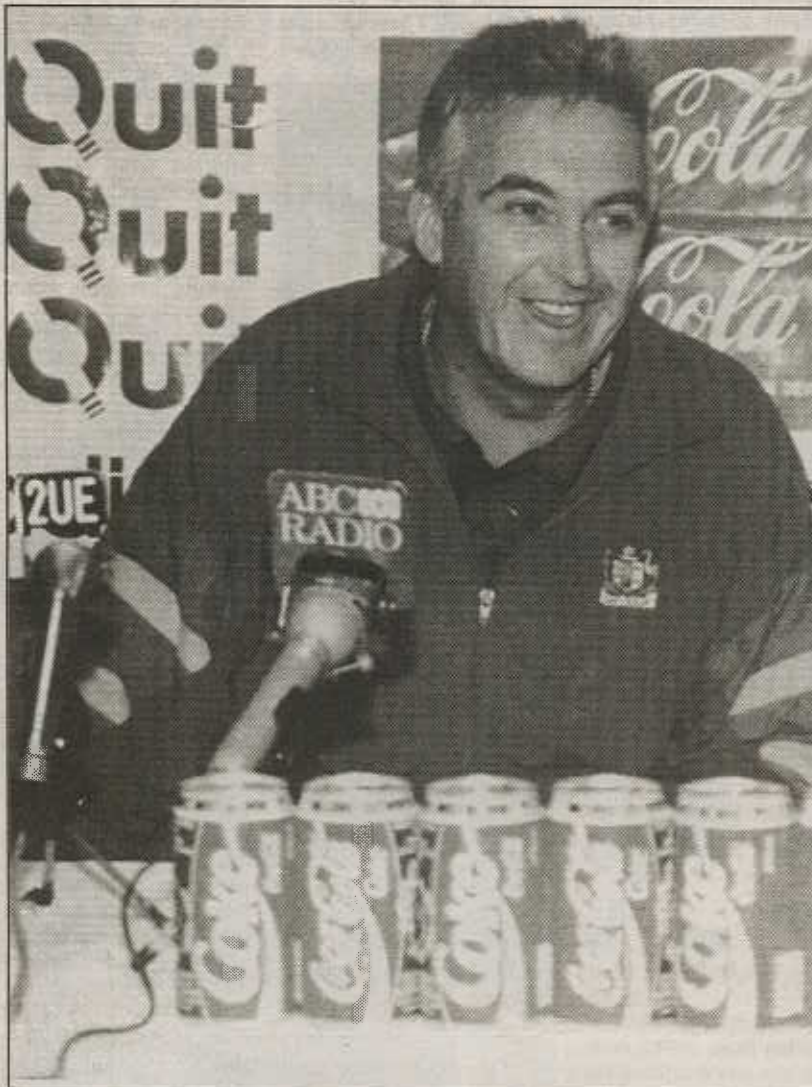
water-traps. The boys deserve a small break as we have had double training sessions everyday since we've arrived in Florida.

"You can imagine training in the severe heat takes it out of you.

"But all the squad is almost super-fit and we load them up with plenty of water before and after each session to avoid any fear of dehydration", said Thomson.

It is hard to believe but Australia's Olympic Soccer squad is the only one that has arrived early in the USA.

"Teams arriving late just before the Games start will be in some kind of trouble handling this heat", Thomson



Eddie Thomson: Australia's Olympic boss.

Due to the European competitions and Australia's national league enjoying a close season, ABSW will be printed as a 24 page newspaper until the end of next month. Regular features will continue.



Paul Agostino: Outstanding form.

Saturday week.

"Our playmaker Aurelio Vidmar is so cool and confident in the middle of the pitch on the ball, that the lads have already nicknamed him 'Fonzie'.

"A big surprise to us all has been just how fit Stevie Corica is.

"It's been a few weeks since he has been on a pitch.

"Yet since his late arrival here, Stevie has been jumping out of his skin with enthusiasm at training and in our games.

"Paul Agostino as well is looking exceptionally well", ended Thomson.

Arguably the strongest and most experienced side ever fielded in Australia's fifth Olympics, competition for first team selection almost equals the prevailing heated climatic conditions at Florida.

For Australia's first match against France at the Orange Bowl in Miami on Saturday week, Thomson has pencilled in his following "A-team":

Goalkeeper: Frank Juric.

Sweeper: Steve Horvat.

Wing-backs: Goran Lozanovski and Ante Moric.

Twin markers: Mark Babic and Kevin Muscat (captain).

Midfielders: Steve Corica, Aurelio Vidmar, Danny Tiatto.

Strikers: Paul Agostino, Mark Viduka.

Pre Games favourite for a Gold Medal, is Brazil who have never won an Olympics.

Brazil's very determined and legendary coach Mario Zagallo, has served warning by drafting into his squad such big guns as Marcos Silva, Bebetto and Aldair as his three over-age players.

warned.

Last Friday Thomson arranged a friendly match for Australia against a tough Caribbean Select side that plays in the local competition.

Thomson went on to state: "They were really tough. They kept us out for almost an hour before we overran them to the tune of 8 goals to nil.

"Aurelio Vidmar, Mark Viduka and Paul Agostino each scored a double with Ross Aloisi and Joe Spiteri a single each.

"I have lined up a second match against a South American side that plays here in the first division, to continue our tune up.

"I am also hopeful of getting a game against Japan as well to give us that extra edge".

The only injury concern that Thomson has at the moment is an ankle ligament damage to his star sweeper Steve Horvat.

Horvat has been carrying the injury for over a week and against the Caribbean Select side Thomson used him for only one half.

"It should hopefully clear up before our first Olympic clash against France on

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SOCCER NSW

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**Manager of Coaching & Development
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PO BOX 6024, Blacktown Delivery Centre, NSW 2148**

GOOD OIL GOOD OIL GOOD OIL

TONY POPOVIC Sydney United's towering international sweeper left Sydney last Friday unaware that he is also being chased by an England Premier League club.

The current NSW captain Popovic took off bound for England where he has been invited to trial with first division side Wolverhampton.

It is understood that coach, Mick Hickman has strongly recommended Popovic to Wolves' manager Mark McGhee.

But no sooner had Popovic departed, yet another invitation to trial with an England club lobbed into Sydney.

Graeme Souness, new manager of Premier League side Southampton, also wants Popovic over at the Dell for trials.

The former tough Liverpool midfielder and Scotland captain, commenced a new three year contract at the Dell yesterday (Monday).

'Good Oil's' sources state that Souness is more than keen to have a real good close look at Australia's central marker.

It is not expected that Popovic will have any problems gaining a work-permit as he already has knocked up 15 full international caps over the past two years.

Another two Australian players are expected to fly to Europe for trials within the next 15 days.

AN outstanding defender from the A.I.S. is about to be snapped up by a Sydney club from the Ericsson League.

No it's not Marconi or Sydney United.

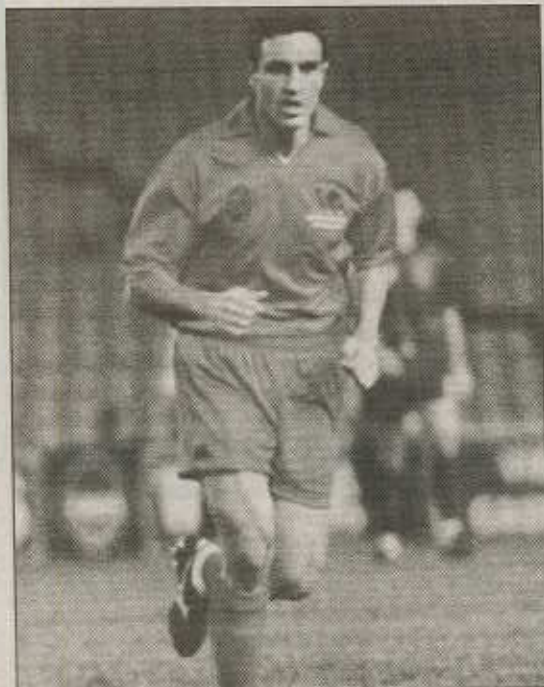
At the same time a midfielder from the AIS is expected to be signed by a Melbourne side.

ANDREW BERNAL, Reading's tough central-

marker back in Australia recently for the Super-Stars of Soccer Series, flew out of Sydney last Sunday to return to England for pre-season training.

Prior to departing the "Birch" told 'Good Oil': "I have sat for my Level 1 and Level 11 exams and gained both.

"Now I want to continue my coaching studies whilst I'm in England".



Andrew Bernal: More studies in coaching in England.

FRANK MIKULETIC from NSW Super League outfit, Leichhardt Tigers, after a 10 day trial with Spanish first division side Rayo Vallecano recently, is expecting to hear some good news from either Spain or Portugal later this week



Tony Popovic: Could soon be seen playing with Matthew Le Tissier.

newly admitted club to the Ericsson League for the next season, stated to 'Good Oil' last night: "I have spoken to many players over the past

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

CRAIG FOSTER, Adelaide City's star central midfielder is still on his honeymoon with his brand new wife Michelle.

The couple went to Thailand for a few days and over the week-end ended up in Hong Kong where his older goalscoring brother Paul is situated with club side INSTANT DICT.

Foster (Craig) is expected back in Sydney tomorrow (Wed) where Olympic and Marconi have been waiting for his return.

BRISBANE STRIKERS surprisingly have still to appoint their coach for the new League season.

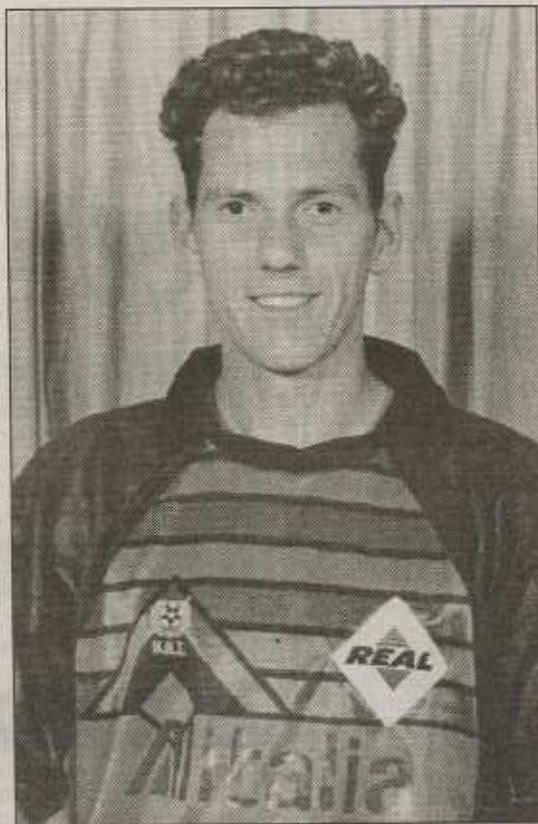
It is understood that Queensland officials feel that Frank Farina is their best solution.

At a meeting last Friday, they again put pressure on their star-striker Farina to takeover the reins from departed Bruce Stowell.

But quite understandably Farina was most reluctant to do so as he felt he wanted to remain free of such pressures to concentrate on doing what he knows best, and that is scoring goals.

The Strikers' pre-season training starts next week with State Cup matches looming, yet there is still no coach in sight.

The name of former international centre-back Gary McDowall, who



Frank Mikuletic: Tigers' goalkeeper.

few weeks.

"It's going to be a tough job assembling a good competitive squad as I always knew it would be.

"Within the next few days I'll be in a better position to be able to announce some of my signings to date".

Matic will move his family from Adelaide to Melbourne this Sunday.

A Players' Agent spoke to 'Good Oil' recently, stating: "Within the next three weeks, I expect to have signed up three young Aussie players with European club sides.

coaches third division side Mitchelton, has been repeatedly suggested.

But to date McDowall has heard nothing.

SYDNEY OLYMPIC has a newly formed consortium of 10 members that wants to takeover the club's managerial side.

The consortium last week proved that they mean business by opening up an account with \$200,000 in credited funds with more to come.

It is also rumoured to have lined up another sponsor willing to toss in mega-bucks in a deal spanning five years.



Zoran Matic: The going is tough.



Craig Foster: Back in Sydney tomorrow.

ALISTAIR EDWARDS, Sydney Olympic's striker or left-sided midfielder is back from China.

Edwards was invited to trial with club side GUANDONG (formerly Canton) and passed all the very strict medical tests.

The Club won the national championship two years ago and wants to challenge for the title again.

But although he was offered attractive terms, Edwards finally turned the club down.

Edwards feels he wants to be here for Olympic's pre-season training and to be able to finish his course at Uni where he is studying Sports Management.

ROSS GREER Perth's brilliant attacking right midfielder, is back from Hong Kong and could be staying in Perth.

Greer has already been approached by Glory's coach, Gary Marocchi.

JOHN KOCH, Canberra

Cosmos' sweeper, has been offered a new contract by the national capital's team, but the free-back still remains undecided.

If possible, Koch would prefer would relish to join a Sydney club where he actually resides.

TROUBLE is a-brewing in Queensland's XXXX League.

The recent proposed merger of the Aussie Rules clubs (Melbourne's Fitzroy and Brisbane's Bears) has ignited a box of dynamite in the State of Sunshine.

With the expected amalgamation ready to go through, the new Rules club is reputed to be called the 'Brisbane Lions'.

Immediately the XXXX State Soccer club, coached by Miron Bleiberg already bearing the name 'Brisbane Lions' for the past 25 years, exploded with vitriolic objections and is seeking compensation.

DAMIAN MORI, Adelaide City's goal-ace, is off to China by the end of the

month.

No, he won't be joining a Chinese side.

In fact Mori is being chased by none other than Manchester City.

The "Light-Blues" will be in China at the same time for a pre-season tour and want to see Damian in some warm-up matches with them.

Mori who had just signed a new contract with the 'Black and Whites' for one more season, has been given permission to go to China by the Adelaide City Board of Directors.

STEVE CORICA, a very late replacement for Ned Zelic in Australia's Olympic team, has "trained the house down" since arriving at Australia's pre-Games training camp at Fort Lauderdale, Florida last Thursday.

Zelic, Australia's captain at the last Olympics, last week caused an upheaval for Australia's Olympic coach Eddie Thomson.

With his shock transfer from German side Eintracht who last season were relegated, Zelic most unexpectedly linked up with French champions F.C. Auxerre.

Although originally selected in Australia's current Olympic team, the captain at the Barcelona Games called Thomson in Florida last Wednesday to inform him that he would have problems getting a release from his new French club to come across and play for Australia in Atlanta.

This was not the first time that Zelic has pulled out of an Australian team at the last minute.

This left a disappointed, as well as an angry Thomson to send an S-O-S to Sydney and draft in Corica.

Corica in fact was luckily still in Sydney last Wednesday but had planned to fly out two days later for England to re-join his club Wolves for pre-season training.

The former Marconi attacking left midfielder played in two matches at Barcelona against Ghana and Mexico and has relished his belated but golden chance to play in his second Olympics.

Thomson last night told 'Good Oil': "Stevie is here already and he's jumping out of his skin with enthusiasm.

At this stage Thomson has already pencilled in a midfield position for Corica in Australia's first Olympic match on Saturday week (July 20th) against France at the Orange Bowl in Miami.

Corica will slot in at right midfield alongside Aurelio Vidmar with paceman Danny Tiatto wide on the left.



THE MEN THEY COULDN'T HANG

PAUL OKON SPEAKING WITH MICKY BROCK

Once again we have another in the irregular series of The Men They Couldn't Hang, this time featuring Paul Okon, the Aussie lad who left these shores for Club Brugge in Belgium and has now signed for Lazio in the Italian Capitol of Rome. Paul is open, honest, tells it like it is and a down to earth young man with an excellent mind. He won't refuse an answer to any question as we'll see.

MB: What question are you asked the most that really annoys the hell out of you?

PO: "How are things going", without a doubt! Everyone asks how the football is going and it's not really anyone's fault here in Australia. The reasons being that most people back here don't get to see you as much as they might like perhaps, or I would for that matter. If they did, I wouldn't have to keep answering that question. Soccer from Belgium isn't really shown very much over here and it's difficult to try and tell people how you're going. I think I'd prefer to actually show them myself and for me, that's why I love playing for Australia back here as I then have the opportunity to do it through action rather than words. I have the chance to show exactly how far I've come as a professional footballer since leaving Australia five years ago.

MB: So feel that by going "full time" in the game has helped in that respect?

PO: Yeah! It's amazing how, by just basically being a professional, improves your game. I've learned so much by training everyday, and in a much tougher competition than in Australia at times. You pick up so much just by watching European soccer and I think now, although I have not kicked a ball competitively for the last 4 and a half months, I'm a better player today than then because I've been able to watch so much soccer that I feel I've improved even without kicking a ball, strange as that may seem.

MB: Going from Australian soccer to join Club Brugge in Belgium, not one of the strongest European leagues with no disrespect, how big a step up is it going from one to the other?

PO: With the actual competition, there's not really that much difference. In Belgium you have three strong teams — Anderlecht, Standard Liege and Club Brugge — with the rest being "also rans" to be honest, there to make up the numbers. The other three clubs are way ahead of the rest and, those in Australia but as for the actual competition itself, there's not a lot between them. Of course, you are a "professional" doing it day in and day out and obviously you improve as a player and as a team. You have to consider things like weather conditions that change, which isn't easy to adjust to at times and I've brought back photo's of me playing in tights, gloves, beanies or whatever and all of this has to be taken into consideration. Just because it shows doesn't mean you don't play. No matter what the conditions, you've got to get the job done.

MB: I take it you remember your first time playing on an icy pitch?



PO: Yeah! It's not only me who doesn't find it good, most players don't like it. If you're playing a weaker side, you come down to their level because the conditions make things quite even in that respect. Certainly "our team" never liked it and it obviously decreased your chances of playing well and getting a result, for yourself or the fans.

MB: Speaking of the fans, you were at Brugge when they played Chelsea in Belgium. Certain TV programs here went way over the top with so called "reporting" of the incidents and most news telecasts had some very dubious, not to mention spurious, footage. Did you see or hear of any Chelsea fans rioting?

PO: NO! To be honest, there wasn't any trouble at all from the Chelsea fans that came to Belgium. The only problem was that the local Police had been told to really have a go at them rather than wait for them to make trouble. The Police were really, really tough on them and most thought that if there were any problems, it was as a result of the Police actions. Normally you hear after the game if there's been any problems etc. but I don't remember hearing anything at all about trouble between the two sets of supporters.

MB: Some friends of mine from Queensland went over specifically for the game, landed in Belgium and were sent to England by ferry, without being allowed to return to their hotel to pick up their passports etc. and they then had to make a special return trip, to retrieve them.

PO: The Belgian Police Force were afraid of the Chelsea supporters and their reputation and thought that by actions such as that, they had found the solution and a way of dealing with it. It was a great shame because playing in a European competition like the Cup Winners Cup is really something else. You turn up at the stadium on the team bus, you're playing Chelsea or Panathinaikos and the atmosphere is just unbelievable. The players pick up on it from the supporters, it's incredible.

MB: How does that atmosphere affect you as a player?

PO: To experience such a special feeling gives you an incredible amount of self-satisfaction because whenever you experience something like that I always think: WOW! If the people in Australia could see me now, my family and friends, if they could only see what's going to happen tonight or where we are. I remember as a youngster getting out of bed at 4 am. in the morning to watch the European finals on TV and

from Brugge to Lazio, how do you think you'll cope with having to face the Press on a daily basis in Italy?

PO: I don't know, it's probably the only thing that makes me a little afraid, the idea of it. There were a few things written about me in the Belgian papers that were completely untrue and at that point I thought to myself, "you hear about the things that happen in Italy", papers run purely for soccer and things like that could become worse there. I think that's been a problem for players in the past, bigger players than myself, so it does worry me a bit.

MB: There's no doubt pressure is going to be enormous and it takes a level headed person to be able to handle that. You fit that category for mine.

PO: I think that you must believe in yourself but not what's written about you, even the good things. If you start believing in the papers, one day it's good, the next it's bad. The important thing is to ignore it and let your football talk for you. If the club is happy with you, the players are happy with you, you're happy in yourself.

MB: You've signed for Lazio but rumour has it that Chelsea were interested in you?

PO: Last year I heard that they contacted someone to enquire how many caps I had as they didn't realise I held an Italian passport. They obviously thought I might have had trouble obtaining a work permit but that wouldn't have been the case.

I did hear a rumour, strictly that, that even though Glenn Hoddle has moved on to become the new England manager, he still has something to do with the club and that they'd renewed interest (supposedly) but at that point it

would have been too late anyway. English soccer at the moment has to be an attraction to any player in the world, it has everything but I think if I was to consider a move there, it would have to be to one of the top clubs, with no disrespect.

MB: I sincerely hope it doesn't happen, touch wood, but if the move to Italy didn't work out, what do you feel would be your next step, a move back to Australia perhaps?

PO: I hope it doesn't happen too but if it did, I feel it's easier to perhaps, move on to somewhere else after failing in Italy than perhaps Belgium say. There would still be advantages in that, you're coming from the Serie A and to get there you would have had to do something a little bit special. I'd like to stay in Europe as long as possible because I'm obviously enjoying what I'm doing and I still have so many ambitions to fulfil. It would really depend on what's available but it was one of my ambitions to get to Italy and I've now done that and I hope I do well but if I don't a move to another European country perhaps.

MB: Paul Okon, many thanks for your time and honesty.

PO: My pleasure and thank you.

As stated, a very open, humble man with a gift, the gift of playing football as we all would like to. He calls himself "a lucky man" but in reality he has worked damn hard for the privilege and it's us and Australia who should feel lucky. Lucky because this likeable man has his feet on the ground and remains the "boy next door". We wish him all the very best in Italy and for the future. Lovely bloke.



Frank Farina: see story on previous page.
No to coaching position.



John Koch: Canberra's sweeper.



Stevie Corica: Has scored an unexpected second Olympics.



Miron Bleiberg: Coach of Brisbane Lions-Soccer that is.

GOOD LUCK WISHES TO OLYROOS

The Atlanta Olympics start on July 19. Soccer Australia's Chief Executive, David Woolley will be with the Olympic Soccer players in Florida and, we all hope, in Georgia.

Part of David's baggage, it is planned, will be pennants from a vast range of junior, local clubs throughout Australia.

These pennants will be signed wishing the Olympians the very best of luck in their competition.

They must be at Soccer Australia by Thursday July 11 in order for them to be packed into the Chief Executive's luggage.

The more there are, the better.

Signed Pennants should be sent to:

**Scott Crebbin
Communications Officer
Soccer Australia
Sydney Football Stadium
Driver Avenue,
Paddington.
NSW 2021**

Note: In next week's ABSW we will tell you the fax number for sending messages to the team.



WUNDERBAR DEUTSCHLAND!

Dear Sir,
Firstly congratulations on the German national team for winning Euro 96.

They played like Champions from the start of the tournament.

It seems the German national team is blessed with a rare quality, it rises to the big occasions.

Three time World Cup winners, three time Champions of Europe, World Cup runners up three times and runners up in the European Championships twice.

Surely Germany is the envy of all nations. Now every German national coach

has won either the World Cup or the European Championship.

And so to the stars of Euro 96, M. Sammer, H. Stoichkov, D. Suter, A. Koepke, D. Seaman, Paul 'Gazza' Gascoigne, Sergi, D. Eilts, M. Desailly, Y. Djorkaeff, Rui Costa, A. Shearer, P. Nedved, and player of Euro 96, Czech Republic attacking midfielder Karel Poborski, surely a world class footballer in the making!

Liverpool FC are holding talks with Poborski, expect something very soon.

William Diak, Campsie, NSW.

KNIGHTS ON TRIAL

Dear Sir,
After reading the letter from Kaja Babic in ABSW on 2.7.96, I felt compelled to write to you with an opposing view.

It is no secret, that the Knights supporters are amongst the worst in the league.

I have attended matches all over Australia, but have vowed never to attend a match at Somer Street again.

I was in Melbourne for the Grand Final, and was unlucky enough to sit between a group of Melbourne Knights supporters.

They were all wearing the

Croatian National Shirt, and took great offence at the fact that I was not from a Croatian background.

I agree totally with Soccer Australia's decision to place the Knights on a good behaviour bonds although I feel they should have gone that one step further and expelled them from the competition.

Finally, I am still to determine the significance of the stiff-arm, Salute, which is prevalent amongst the Melbourne Knights and Sydney United Soccer fans.

Samuel Sirras, Fairfield West, NSW.

"C'mon David Hill C'mon"

Dear Sir,
For my money David Hill has been vindicated. However I still can't believe it! Australian soccer actually appeared on commercial (that's right COMMERCIAL) television!

Not only were two matches televised on the nirvana of Aussie free to air television (read Channel 9), but pre-game promos also featured on the popular *Wide World of Sports* and *Hey Hey It's Saturday* programs.

Who knows if the commercial stations actually become interested in soccer in this great country the possibilities are endless. Our great players may get the recognition they deserve, crowds may grow and we may even see a Melbourne Knights game where flares are not ignited. I'd like to see that!

What the code needs now is a major advertising

campaign next season on commercial television to compete with the likes of "Simply the Best", "You Ain't Seen Nothing Yet", "C'mon Aussie C'mon" et al.

So to all the knockers of the Soccer Australia administration, a big brickbat. Think of what the game was like as recently as 12 or 18 months ago; a game such as the "Superstar Challenge" (or any soccer game for that matter) never have appeared on Channel 9.

Well done to all involved with the game, let's hope it becomes a regular and popular part of the Aussie sporting calendar.

And to David Hill, you have done more in one year to raise the profile of the game and take it to mainstream Australia than all of your critics combined. Keep up the good work!

Stephen Plummer, Caloundra, Qld.



"OK Jeremy, let's see if you can do it again. Go ahead - kick it over the bar."

Letters to the Editor

Have your say on any soccer issue in the world. Preference will be given to short letters. Include daytime phone number for verification.



Short letters of about 400 words will be given preference in this column.

The opinions expressed on this page do not necessarily reflect those of this newspaper

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AUSTRALIAN &
BRITISH SOCCER
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'Football' only

Dear Sir,

In the issue of your weekly SOCCER, volume 17 No.777, dated the 11th inst., I read an article entitled "REAL FOOTBALL ON FRONT PAGE" in your "Letters to the Editor".

I must admit that I heartily agree with Mr S. Rosier.

Australia is known as the "Sporting Nation", yet when it comes to FOOTBALL (and I mean FOOTBALL) you can hardly find long articles, because of the very poor coverage during the competition of that League.

The *Sunday Telegraph* prints very little about the game, because the media sums up the different games coverage on three quarter of a page if so, and that is a big effort.

I follow different sports, but when FOOTBALL is involved, (and I don't mean Rugby League) it would be nice to read a bit more about it.

The codes played in Australia, and I quote, Rugby League, Rugby Union and Australian Rules (Victoria Football) have established their names. Any sport where the ball is handled is not "FOOTBALL".

Ironically, when our Nation hosted the Olympic games, back in 1956 in Melbourne, the Football team representing our country, posed for the media, in front of the players was

a big sign wearing in big letters "AUSTRALIAN FOOTBALL".

Why, may I ask, in the name of heaven, or better still in the name of sport, don't we drop this ugly word "SOCCER" and call this No.1 sport in the world, by it's right name, the name it deserves, and that is "FOOTBALL".

Let's not be part of, a minority group, and join instead with the majority, which is in the vicinity of 150 Nations, and they all call this sport "FOOTBALL".

Soccer Australia chairman, David Hill, was asked during an interview of "ON THE BALL" this question, and I quote: The fans are not satisfied with the word "SOCCER" and they would like to change it to "FOOTBALL".

Mr Hill promptly replied: Well, if the fans want to change the name, all there is to do is to put it through a referendum, it's as simple as that. What happened to the referendum?

Finally, lets bear in mind, that FIFA stands for: FEDERAL INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION, and not SOCCER ASSOCIATION.

C. Rombo, Matraville, NSW.

Corner kicks to decide

Dear Sir,

It is surely time for the governing bodies of Football around the globe to take a had look at the systems which are currently used to determine the winners in drawn matches at International level.

Penalty shoot-outs bring the game to a one on one situation, the game is a team sport and to have one individual from each team decide the match lacks credibility.

This exercise also places a great deal of blame on the player who happens to miss a crucial attempt to win a match for his/her team and Country.

The golden goal is also a waste of time because it still allows the negative coach to devise defensive tactics.

The majority of coaches are conservative and they have turned the game into midfield defensive mayhem.

These coaches rely mainly on counter attacks to score goals.

One has to only look at the team formation of most of the participants Euro 96 to arrive at this conclusion.

Two strikers and five defensive midfielders is not a recipe for attacking football.

Unfortunately this form of negative football has been allowed to fester for

too long. It will take a long time to turn the game around to total attacking football.

If we are to live with drawn games in the finals of major competitions, why not introduce the corner kicks rule to decide these matches in extra time.

The teams would compete for the extra 30 minutes under the existing rules and with a full compliment of 11 players a side but with one notable exception.

Corner kicks will decide the match if the scores are locked after extra-time.

If goals and corner kicks are level, the game continues until there is a result.

The team who scores a goal or gets the first corner kick wins.

This system is fair and it is also within the existing rules. The winner would emerge from general play between two full teams.

This system would open up the game because it would be foolish to play defensively as you would be prone to concede corner kicks if you are camped into your own half.

Goals would negate corner kicks under this rule. Therefore, if one team is in front on corners the opposition would have to

attack in order to score a goal to take the lead.

In doing so the attacking team has a good chance of picking up a few corners as well.

In fact the corner kick rule gives the attacking team as double chance of winning the game.

The team is credited with the corner as well as having an opportunity to score from the ensuing corner kick.

While I am at it, why not add to the current back pass rule to include "a pass with any part of the player's body to the goalkeeper shall be deemed a deliberate backpass" and therefore constitutes a foul if handled by the goalkeepers?

Throw-ins is another area worthy of scrutiny. The time taken by players who get the ball back in play is getting longer all the time.

Why should the fans have to wait up to 30 seconds and longer for a player to walk one hundred yards to take a throw, otherwise it is an indirect free kick to the opposing team.

Deliberate time wasting must no longer be tolerated because the perpetrators are cheating, their actions detract from the fair play spirit of our great game.

Serge Armansin, Everton Hills, NSW.

A disgrace? Not the Game!

Dear Sir,

When someone asks what is wrong with Australian soccer, show them "An opinion piece by John Economos" (ABSW 25.6/96).

This inane twaddle highlights perfectly how, when something good happens in the code, certain people are ready to find fault and not miss the opportunity to push their own agenda (ie "white anting" the Soccer Australia administration).

I read Mr Economos' piece several times to try and decipher just what the great "disgrace" was. It seems two things (and only two things) have raised his ire: team names and team strips. I contend that the names "International Travellers" and "True Blues" are a touch more interesting and marketable

than John's suggested Australia Home and Away (yawn).

I agree the colours of the strips weren't perfect but the words "unprofessional" and "disgrace" are hardly applicable.

It is a pity people such as those with Mr Economos' media exposure cannot concentrate on the positives which an initiative such as the "Superstar Challenge" generates, instead of the "diatribe of trivialities" he produced.

If the "opinion piece" is the best he can do for soccer I suggest Mr Economos sticks to the "Good Oil" (he may even like to give himself a good dose!) and his adjective-rich match reports.

Stehen Plummer, Caloundra, Qld.

A 'Wade-cult' is not the answer

Dear Sir,

For some years now Paul Wade has been the ideal public face of Oz soccer. With a very high recognition factor and positive image unique for an OZ soccer player he has done much to nullify the bad image that the mainstream OZ media bestows on soccer with glee.

Even in the twilight of his playing career his performance with the Cosmos on and off the field has been quite outstanding.

Yet despite his high standing the attendances of the Cosmos in the recently completed season and the Superstar series of which he was surprisingly included indicate his presence has little or no effect on crowd numbers.

The Paul Wade fan club it appears is made up mainly of people who read about soccer in newspapers or watch it sparingly on TV but never or rarely attend matches in the National League or even internationals.

Ironically these are the same people the brains trust running SA is hoping to attract to National League matches and internationals in place of or to supplement those wicked ethnics who are supposedly stifling OZ soccer's progress by locking out mainstream OZ participation.

The brains trust at SA should examine the Paul Wade factor very closely because if they can think without getting a brain tumor they will see that the ethnic "Linderance" factor is grossly overstated and just a convenient excuse for a lack of interest as he been again proven in the case of the Brisbane Strikers this season where this is no ethnic factor or involvement.

In conclusion self delusion has been the downfall of many people over time even brilliant minds like those at SA.

R. Melov, Bondi, NSW.

Leave the roots, S.A.!

Dear Sir,

I am writing this letter to express my disappointment with Soccer Australia's moves to change the emblems of the so called ethnic based clubs. The ethnic community in this country has done so much in developing Australia's soccer and developing our young players.

No soccer fan in this country can argue with the fact that the ethnic groups in our community are responsible for reviving the game in this country and helping to bring it up to its present standard.

Now lets face it Sydney United and Melbourne Knights which both display a Croatian emblem on their shirt badges are supported predominantly by people of Croatian background the same goes for Marconi and Adelaide City who have predominately Italian

supporter and also UTS Olympic and South Melbourne who are backed by the Greek community.

The emblems on their teams shirts are the only links the supporters have left to their country or origin, if they are taken away these supporters will have no way left to associate with the clubs that they are proud off.

I think that the emblems are worn with pride by most players in recognition of the ethnic groups who started and worked hard to develop their club.

So David Hill and Soccer Australia think seriously about whether this decision really will help soccer in this country and give the ethnic groups involved in soccer the recognition they deserve.

Nicholas Smolcich, Camden, NSW.



Ericsson Cup Season Review



BY ALISTAIR RUSSELL

11. UTS Olympic

Again Olympic lived up to their colourful reputation, the league's most loved and maligned club made it back to the playoffs — a wondrous campaign.

New coach Dave Ratcliffe took on the Ericsson Cup's most impossible club and without making it to the



Best: Fantastic 3-1 win at Marconi R20.
Worst: 2-0 defeat in semi final at Adelaide City.
Best Run: Lost only 1 from 14 matches R4-R17.
Favourite Opposition: Wolves 9 points, 8-0.
Worst Opposition: Morwell 2 points, 5-7.
Most Individual Goals/Game: Trajanovski 3 v Wolves R17.
Top Scorer: Trajanovski 19.
Player Votes:
 Kris Trajanovski 26
 Norman Tome 13
 Walter Ardone 13
 Dave Barrett 13
 Kim Taliadoros 7
 Nick Meredith 7

Quote of the Year —

"It was an assault on George". Dave Ratcliffe after Marko Perinovic 'mugged' George Bouhoutsos to score.

Grand Final still produced a terrific season.

Ratcliffe injected self belief back into a side with undoubted talent but with an inferiority complex.

Against all sides Olympic had their measure, at home they were almost unbeatable.

They developed an incredible never say die attitude that lit up the competition.

The fantastic trilogy with

STATISTICS

Best Result: 17 wins, equal highest.
Best: 55 goals scored, 3rd best.
Worst: 41 goals conceded, worst of the top six.
Best: 12 wins at home, league's best.
Best: 1 defeat at home, best in the comp.
Best: 25 goals scored away, 2nd highest.
Worst: 28 goals conceded away, worst of top seven.

Sydney United proved the Olympic spirit and courage were back and the "cardiac kids" were direct product of the Ratcliffe influence.

Olympic always fickle in defence but explosive in attack, enjoyed a double-pronged frontline that reaped the obvious rewards.

Kris Trajanovski was a delightful match winner collecting 19 goals while Norm Tome and Kim Taliadoros were magnificent back ups.

Ratcliffe, better known for his impenetrable defensive line while at Wollongong, introduced a similar determination to the Olympic resolve.

Milan Blagojevic, Nick Meredith and captain Dave Barrett carrying out the soldiering duties at the back

and instrumental in the Olympic success.

Olympic were to live or die by their double chance in the playoffs, losing the penultimate game to West Adelaide effectively costing the Blues a grand final place.

In the regular season Olympic, as in years gone by, were most troubled by the clubs near the wrong end of the ladder.

They won only once against Newcastle, lost twice to West Adelaide and failed to beat Morwell in three matches.

At the other end of the scale UTS scored a hat trick over Wollongong and were unbeaten against Canberra, Adelaide City, Sydney United and Marconi.

However, when Olympic faced the business end their

new resolve was found wanting.

Losing to both Souths and West Adelaide late in the season meant Olympic missed the minor premiership and a spot in the top two.

Unluckily the Blues exited from the playoffs, Adelaide City, a side Olympic dominated in the premiership showing Ratcliffe's men the door in a dour two legged semi-final.



Kris Trajanovski: Top scorer and highest vote-getter for his club in the past season.



Mike Gibson: His consistency contributed to Olympic's success in 1995-96.

INTENSE HEAT FORCES

Olyroos to change training routine

The Australian Olympic team have stepped up their training schedule to two sessions a day. One in the early morning and the other early evening to avoid the extreme heat.

Coach Eddie Thomson has not imposed curfews on the squad and Muscat said the players were old enough to know their responsibilities.

Thomson has stuck to a tight schedule for the players and they have only been allowed one day free to visit local sights.

"We've been to local beaches where the water is clean but there isn't any surf," said Kevin Muscat.

"Most of the week consists of fairly intensive training and our fitness has improved out of sight. We can see the change session by session.

"A lot of our work has concentrated on sharpness and shooting but today for the first time we went through formation drills of building up from the back to the midfield.

"The heat has been unbearable and we've been very conscious of the need to stay in the shade and watch our water intake."



Atlanta 1996



Eddie Thomson: Has not imposed a curfew.

Muscat said the players had studied videos of matches involving France, the team they meet in the first match of the Olympic preliminary round.

"We're not really talking about the first game yet so none of the players have really developed any nerves," he said.

"The Olyroos know it's a tough group but we also have a feeling that we can do well."

Hill overwhelmingly defeated in FIFA vote

BY BOB BROOKS

Soccer Australia chairman, David Hill (below) suffered a crushing blow when the FIFA Congress, meeting in Zurich, voted 172-1 in favour of giving full confederation status to Oceania.

Hill had written to all 193 national associations pleading that Oceania was too small and too weak to take on the responsibilities of a full confederation.

He said that for the last ten years Australia has won all the Oceania qualifying competitions for all FIFA competitions. For the Atlanta Olympics, Hill pointed out, Australia had won all their games and had scored 52 goals while conceding a mere two.

Hill further argued that this situation was not indicative of Australia's strength but rather of Oceania's lack of strength and ability.

Australia had ambitions to become part of the Asian confederation. This was virtually doomed to failure because the Asians did not want to admit Australia.

Despite Oceania now being a confederation, it does not mean automatic qualifying spots for World Cup finals.

The Fiji FA president, Mohammed Khan Sahu said, "It saddens me that Australia only talks about itself and not us. Having full status will be for the good of the game and help the development of Soccer in the Pacific region.

Oceania president, Charlie Dempsey of New Zealand, said "This is football — not politics."



TASMANIA Wrest Point State League at 1st July 1996

	P	W	D	L	P	A	PT
Croatia Glenorchy	10	7	1	2	25	16	22
Devonport	10	6	3	1	36	17	21
White Eagle	10	6	0	4	36	21	18
Launceston Juventus	9	5	2	2	20	15	17
Olympia	10	5	1	4	17	24	16
Hobart Juventus	9	4	1	4	20	21	13
Caledonian	10	3	3	4	19	21	12
South Hobart	10	3	2	5	18	23	11
Riverside Olympic	10	3	1	6	20	24	10
Lasunceston	10	0	0	10	8	37	0

WESTERN AUSTRALIA First Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Fremantle	12	10	1	1	30	15	31
Joondalup	12	8	4	0	35	13	28
Morley	12	8	0	4	38	23	24
Southside	12	6	2	4	25	22	20
Dianella	12	5	3	4	26	20	18
Ashfield	12	5	1	6	19	25	16
Perth City	12	4	3	5	18	17	15
Balcatta	12	4	3	5	20	23	15
Rockingham	12	3	3	6	15	20	12
Bassendean	12	3	3	6	21	27	12
North Lake	12	3	1	8	18	34	10
Cockburn	12	1	0	11	13	39	3

Second Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Queens Park	10	8	2	0	36	9	26
Armada Park	10	6	3	1	17	10	21
Balga SC	10	5	2	3	16	10	17
University	10	5	1	4	20	17	16
Wanneroo City	10	4	1	5	21	20	13
Melville Corinthians	10	3	2	5	18	23	11
Western Yugal	10	1	2	7	14	32	5
Stirling Vardar	10	1	1	8	9	30	4

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

BY RICHARD KREIDER

Indonesia to make lightning visit

As close as Indonesia is, their national team will still be making its first ever appearance on Western Australian soil when it plays a friendly against the state side this Wednesday night at Dorrien Gardens.

The game was only confirmed last Tuesday, which obviously puts coach Eric Williams behind the eight-ball in terms of

preparation, but he has still been able to select a strong squad for the history making game, which, may be telecast in an edited highlight form to a viewing audience of nearly 200 million if the go-ahead to transmit the match back to Indonesia is approved.

It seems Channel Seven may do the same on local TV the following Saturday at 12 noon. The only concern is the quality of the lighting at the

North Perth ground which some officials have criticised as being not that strong. "They (Channel 7) have already been down to check out the lighting, and they tell me they have seen worse" reassures Soccer Administrator of WA spokesman John O'Connell. The game will be used as a warm-up by the visitors in preparation for the Asian Cup Finals in Abu Dhabi.

Former Soccerroo goalkeeper Robbie Zabica will again be the home team captain as he was when the state played West Ham United and Nottingham Forest at the WACA last year.

The newcomers include striker Robert Perruzza who has been in sensational form this season with 19 goals in ten games, Willie Herd and Alan Mackenzie who are all from the Bayswater Panthers club, plus Ray Kastropil (Western Knights), Doug Ithier (Floreat) and young Scott Daley from Inglewood Falcons.

Craig Moodie is relatively new, his only appearance was in 1994 when he came off the bench for the game against the Olyroos.

Altogether, WA have played Indonesia five times during three Asian tournaments. They won both matches in the 1968 Merdeka Tournament, lost once in the 1969 Kings Cup and 1970 Anniversary Cup, and were 2-1 victors at the Kings Cup twelve years ago. "It's difficult to prepare for a first class match with only one minutes notice" said coach Eric Williams. "That is why I have picked the majority of the side from two clubs and hope they will settle quickly with players they know around them".

Another welcome sight in the squad is attacking midfielder Ross Greed who has been in Hong Kong with clubs Eastern for three years and Instant Dict for the last two. The ex-Floreat Athena star was due to return last Saturday, but has since



Vas Kalogeracos: In the WA squad to play Indonesia.

preferred to stay, in anticipation of gaining selection for the Perth Glory.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Goalkeepers: Robert Zabica; Tom Maras.

Defence: Craig Moodie; Scott Clissold; Doug Ithier; Rene de Koning; Craig Deans.

Midfield: Gareth Naven; Scott Miller; Willie Herd; Ray Kastropil; Paul McVittie; Scott Daley; Ross Greer.

Forward: Steve Bourne; Alan Mackenzie; Robert Perruzza; Peter Coci; Vas Kalogeracos.

INDONESIA

Goalkeepers: Kurnia Sandy; Sumardi.

Defence: Robby Darwis; Aples Gideon Tescuari; Sugiantoro; Nur'alim; Yeyen Tumena.

Midfield: Anang Ma'ruf; Supriono; Suwandi HS; Anyari Lubis; Fahri Husaini; Chairil Anwar; Eri Erianto; Chris Yarangga.

Forward: Kurniawan; Pery Sandria; Widodo C. Putra.

'Skippy' eager to bounce back

Former Floreat Athena and West Adelaide midfielder Stan Lazaridis is raring to go again after breaking his left ankle with West Ham United in January this year.

ABSW scribe Richard Kreider catches Stan just before he flies out of Perth with club-mate Chris Coyne for another season in one of the worlds toughest soccer competitions.

Richard Kreider: Firstly Stan, how did you come to break the ankle, and was it serious?

Stan Lazaridis: It was actually in an FA Cup game against Grimsby Town after I came on as substitute. It was pretty cold that night and the pitch was beginning to freeze over. In the 88th minute of the game I was running down the flank with the ball and just as I got past a player I whipped the ball into the goal area. Then a split second after, I was given a slight nudge which was enough to make me land awkwardly and roll the ankle. It was only a fracture, nothing serious, but with anything like this you have still got to give it time.

RK: It must have been disappointing to say the least, just as you were about to make another charge into the first team.

SL: This game really turned everything around for me as I had worked so hard to get another chance. When I first arrived, I found the pace pretty fast and I probably wasn't as fit as I would have liked. But that game against Grimsby should have made all the difference. I actually got a really good reception when I came on, with a lot of the crowd chanting 'Skippy, Skippy'. I also got a terrific amount of mail later on which eased the pain quite considerably. Of course it was disappointing, especially since there was only a couple of minutes to go before the final whistle and I was looking forward to ringing up the parents with some good news. I still rang, but it was for the wrong reasons.

RK: West Ham have just recently picked up a few more foreign players, making the club quite cosmopolitan. Is this good or bad?

SL: I think the spectators are getting used to it, and I expect there will be a lot more of it to come, now there have been changes to the transfer procedures. The thing is, a lot of them are just on loan, and remembering of course, it not only means foreign players will find it simpler to come to England, it will now be easier for English players to play abroad.

RK: The Hammers did really well last

season, how do you think they will go this time.

SL: Everyone there was very pleased, it was their best performance since 1985/6 when they finished third in the League and made the FA Cup quarter-finals. I know they are endeavouring to get into Europe this season, so anything less than eighth or ninth will probably now be deemed a bad season. West Ham was never a club that would spend big money for players, but now they are prepared to pay two million pounds for a player.

RK: I take it then, Stan Lazaridis is quite happy being at Upton Park?

SL: Very happy. There are a lot of good players there and I'm pleased to say I get on with all of them. And this makes a huge difference when you are away from home, because these sorts of things are vital when you are trying to settle in. Robbie Slater helped me out considerably in that area, in fact he went through the same sort of situation as me when he was 23. Coincidentally, he copped a gash to the right leg in the last game of the season but he is OK now. Don't worry, us Aussies are not jinxed!

RK: How is Chris Coyne getting along or don't you get to see him that often?

SL: He plays in different competitions, the Youth and Reserve leagues although he has trained with the first team some Thursdays. He is only 17 years old and has so much time on his side. Over there you can't expect to break in at that age, it's a very tough league, perhaps the second best league in the world with players not making it until they are at least in their twenties.

RK: I guess you still recall what Dave Bassett said about you when he was in Perth with Sheffield United two years ago. His comment that the English League would be too tough for you, has turned to water hasn't it?

SL: Dave is entitled to his opinion, but I actually thought I played pretty well against Sheffield that night. I like to think I have since proved him wrong by now being at Upton Park.

RK: What are your movements now prior to the season kicking off?

SL: I've been on a three month rehabilitation course here in Perth, doing most of the training on my own. And now, I'm not far away from full fitness. Hopefully, after the up and coming pre-season matches, I shall be flying again.

ZABICA SENT OFF, AGAIN

It has been a week of mixed emotions for Spearwood Dalmatinac goalkeeper Robert Zabica, for after gaining selection for this Wednesday's state match against Indonesia, the ex-Soccerroo found himself staring at a red card for the second time in a fortnight, when his side defeated Olympic Kingsway 2-1 in a bad-tempered match at Kingsway Reserve last Saturday.

The win enabled them to leap-frog Perth into fourth place, while Kingsway stay only one point ahead of bottom placed Swan IC.

Spearwood took the lead in the 25th minute through big Craig Rourke who climbed high to a searching centre from Derek Combe and headed accurately past goalkeeper Peter Evans.

Olympic took only one minute to reply through Mike Ortin who powered a Dario De Cesare cross goalwards from an acute angle, but Zabica was ideally positioned on the far post to scramble the ball away for a corner.

As it turned out, this was to be Zabica's last task, for four minutes later he got himself unnecessarily involved in an incident concerning his team-mate Frank Vesich who received a spiteful late tackle from Olympic forward Ortin.

His verbal protests directed at Ortin were considered too strong by referee Frank Moretti, and was subsequently sent-off. Zabica copped a red card on June 22nd after objecting to a decision by referee Alec Learmonth to have a saved penalty retaken.

Zabica's replacement was Jason Antunovich who once again performed competently.

The visitors took a two goal lead in the 76th minute when a dangerous cross was only half-cleared to Scott Miller waiting in the semi-circle, who gratefully and easily drilled the ball home.

The midfield craftsman very nearly collected a second two minutes later, but this time Evans executed a quality reflex save.

Olympic reduced the deficit two minutes from time when defender Rob Travers headed home a left-hand byeline centre from substitute Ben Percival. But any thoughts the league strugglers had of poaching points evaporated seconds later when Di Cesare was sent off for a second yellow card offence.

On Friday night, Inglewood Falcons inflicted Swan IC with its tenth defeat of the season in a dull encounter at the Kiev Sports Ground. "I've seen some training games that have been more exciting" said one Falcons official.

The goalkeeping of Swan's Luka Nicora was one of the very few highlights to come out of the game, together with the only goal of the game that beat him in the 64th minute. Man of the match Tony Hall started the successful move with a 30 metre run along the right wing. After a slick 1-2 with Scott Daley, the tall attacking defender lined up Norrie Sutton to slam the ball home from 15 metres.

PREMIER LEAGUE

Perth SC	2	Sorrento	2
Olympic Kingsway	1	Spearwood Dal	2
Stirling Macedonia	2	Western Knights	5
Inglewood Falcons	1	Swan IC	0
Bayswater Panthers	2	Floreat Athena	2

RESERVES

Perth SC	1	Sorrento	0
Olympic Kingsway	0	Spearwood Dal	0
Stirling Macedonia	5	Western Knights	0
Inglewood Falcons	3	Swan IC	1
Bayswater Panthers	6	Floreat Athena	0

UNDER 18

Perth SC	2	Sorrento	2
Olympic Kingsway	6	Spearwood Dal	2
Stirling Macedonia	3	Western Knights	3
Inglewood Falcons	1	Swan IC	4
Bayswater Panthers	5	Floreat Athena	3

DIVISION ONE

Bassendean Cale	3	Dianella WE	1
Perth City	1	Ashfield-Bunbury	1
Morley Windmills	0	North Lake Espanol	1
Southside United	4	Cockburn United	1
Balcatta	0	Fremantle City	1
Rockingham City	0	Joondalup City	2

DIVISION TWO

Melville Corinthians	1	Stirling Vardar	3
Balga	4	Armada Park	1
Queens Park	3	University	2
Wanneroo City	2	Western Yugal	3

PREMIER DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Bayswater	12	9	1	2	31	10	28
Stirling	12	9	1	2	25	14	28
Inglewood	12	8	2	2	22	14	26
Perth	12	7	2	3	25	17	23
Spearwood	12	8	0	4	23	19	24
Floreat	12	3	5	4	21	23	14
W/Knights	12	2	2	8	16	22	8
Kingsway	12	1	2	9	14	35	5
Swan IC	12	1	1	10	11	31	4

LEADING SCORERS

19	Robbie Perruzza	Bayswater
8	Peter Coci	Perth
8	Vas Kalogeracos	Floreat
7	Neil Blunt	Sorrento
7	Eugen Singeorzan	Knights
7	Dale Wingell	Perth
7	Rob Milevski	Stirling
7	Peter Murphy	Stirling
6	Norrie Sutton	Inglewood
4	Tristram Morgan	Knights



Robbie Zabica: Will be the last line of defence for WA.



QUEENSLAND

XXXX League



QUEENSLAND SOCCER FEDERATION Perry Park, Abbotsford Road, Mayne, Queensland 4006 Phone: (07) 3252-5327 Fax: (07) 3252-1137

Taringa go on the rampage

BY GLENN DAVIS

Taringa Rovers served notice they were still strong contenders for a Fourx League semi finals berth with a stunning 8-3 thumping against noted poor travellers Nerang at Jack Speare Park on Sunday.

Taringa, who have won a premiership and figured in two grand finals under the guidance of coach Juan Cutillas in recent years, have been the big improvers in the second round after a poor start in the season.

With still five matches remaining, the Fourx League is set for an epic finish with Brisbane Lions, Brisbane City and Rochedale Rovers



Fraser Cuba also bagged a double to take him to third on the leading goal scorers table with 14 goals while skipper John Ogden and Stu Collins completed the Taringa haul.

While Taringa were doing a demolition job over Nerang, league leaders Brisbane Lions did their own mauling with a 4-0 drubbing against Pine Rivers.

Lions found it tough going in a lacklustre first half and had to rely on a Pine Rivers error to go to the break 1-0 up when Rob Pudja capitalised on a poor clearance from keeper Peter Underhill in injury time.

Underhill rushed out to the edge of the box to clear, but his poor pass fell straight to Pudja who easily chipped him from 25 metres.

Lions' striker Anthony Brown picked up the first of a double in the 48th minute with a strong left foot strike after catching the Pine Rivers defence flat-footed.

Again it came from a long clearance from the hands of Underhill which was picked

up on the half way by Lions midfielder Roy Huth who sent Brown racing away into the box with a nearly struck pass.

Lions, who are looking the goods as premiership contenders, made it 3-0 on 73 minutes through hard working striker Kevin Meacock, one of the league's most feared marksmen.

Meacock's goal started when Lions skipper Frank Mengotti cleverly beat the offside trap near the halfway before laying it off for Meacock, who in turn sent the ball back for Mengotti to fire in a pin-point cross from the right for Meacock to head home.

Lions coach Moron Blieberg must have been rueing his halftime decision to

away his second from close range one minute from time after good lead up work involving Ibro Cahut and Mengotti.



Steve Jackson: Strikers & Coalstars.



send on striker Warren Allen when he was sent off by referee Ted Kearney for foul language in back play, with 14 minutes remaining.

Allen, who has a poor record with officials, wouldn't have helped his cause in the judiciary room next week when he gave Kearney some parting comments on his way from the field.

The fiery Allen, also had a verbal slanging match on his way off the field with team mate Mengotti who was obviously annoyed with his forward's antics. Although down to ten men, Lions still had too much class for Pine Rivers when Brown tucked



engaged in a three-way tussle for premiership honours while Wynnum, Beenleigh and now Taringa battle out for fourth and fifth spots.

North Star are already doomed to second division while Easts still require a miracle not to join them after going down 3-1 away to Brisbane City.

Taringa striker Marc Flemington was again the hero for the Blues, bagging four goals to displace Rochedale's Keiran Cooper as the league's leading scorer with 18 goals this season. Taringa, who led 5-0 at the break, are now within two points of fifth placed Beenleigh who were held to a 2-2 draw by Coalstars.

Flemington's striker partner

QUEENSLAND XXXX LEAGUE

Brisbane Lions	4	Pine Rivers United	0
Taringa Rovers	8	Nerang Soccer Club	3
Wynnum District	4	Grange Thistle	0
Beenleigh	2	Coalstars	2
North Star	1	Rochedale Rovers	6
Brisbane City	3	Eastern Suburbs	1

TABLE

Brisbane Lions	17	13	1	3	44	19	40
Brisbane City	17	13	1	3	38	16	40
Rochedale Rovers	17	11	3	3	60	19	36
Wynnum District	19	10	3	6	35	27	33
Beenleigh	18	9	2	7	21	24	29
Taringa Rovers	18	8	3	7	46	31	27
Pine Rivers United	18	7	1	10	33	40	22
Nerang Soccer Club	17	6	3	8	32	36	21
Grange Thistle	18	6	3	9	22	49	21
Coalstars	17	6	2	9	26	28	20
Eastern Suburbs	18	3	3	12	19	39	12
North Star	18	1	1	16	14	62	4

DIVISION TWO

Mount Gravatt	4	Willowburn	0
St Albans	4	The Gap	2
Albany Creek Exc	3	St Helens Utd	1
Logan City Kings	2	Rocklea United	3
Inala City United	0	St Albans	3
The Gap	2	Mount Gravatt	2
Willowburn	1	Olympic United	1
Acacia Ridge	2	Capalaba S & R	2

TABLE

Olympic United	18	12	4	2	50	25	40
Rocklea United	18	12	3	3	45	21	39
St. Albans	18	9	3	6	42	32	30
Mount Gravatt	19	8	6	5	41	33	30
Inala City United	18	9	0	9	38	39	27
Albany Creek Excelsior	18	7	4	7	36	43	25
The Gap	18	6	4	8	25	34	22
Acacia Ridge	17	6	3	8	29	31	21
Capalaba S & R	19	4	8	7	38	43	20
Logan City Kings	17	5	4	8	30	29	19
Willowburn	17	3	5	9	19	33	14
Ipswich St Helens Utd	19	4	2	13	17	47	14

DIVISION THREE

Clairvaux SC Inc	0	Souths United	1
Redlands United	0	Mitchelton	1
Uni of Queensland	0	Newmarket	4
Slacks Creek	2	Dara United	1
Latrobe Athletic	2	Annerley Recreation	2
Goodna & Districts	3	Western Suburbs	0

TABLE

Slacks Creek	18	15	2	1	65	9	47
Newmarket	18	13	2	3	37	16	41
Mitchelton	18	13	1	4	57	19	40
Souths United	18	8	5	5	40	22	29
University of Qld	18	8	3	7	38	31	27
Redlands United	18	8	2	8	38	26	26
Goodna & Districts	18	6	6	6	28	24	24
Darra United	18	6	5	7	37	38	23
Latrobe Athletic	18	5	4	9	38	49	19
Annerley Recreation	18	4	5	9	29	42	17
Clairvaux SC Inc	18	2	1	15	25	64	7
Western Suburbs	18	2	0	16	12	104	6

DIVISION FOUR

South Star	5	North Pine United	0
Samford	1	Brothers United	3
Greenbank	0	Moggill United	9
Southside Eagles	2	Ipswich City	0
Pine Hills	1	Redcliffe City	5
Bayside United	4	Browns Plains	1

TABLE

South Star	17	14	1	2	57	14	43
Moggill United	17	13	1	3	51	11	40
Bayside United	18	12	1	5	48	24	37
Southside Eagles	17	10	3	4	35	20	33
Brothers United	18	10	2	6	44	37	32
North Pine United	18	10	2	6	35	28	32
Redcliffe City	18	8	5	5	46	39	29
Samford	18	6	3	9	36	29	21
Pine Hills	18	5	1	12	22	49	16
Greenbank	18	2	2	14	32	74	8
Ipswich City	18	2	2	14	14	58	8
Browns Plains	17	2	1	14	20	57	7

DIVISION XXXX LEAGUE

This Week's Matches...

Saturday, July 13

Beenleigh	v	Brisbane City	Chris Green Park	7.00pm
Pine Rivers	v	Taringa Rovers	Wendy Allison Park	7.00pm

Sunday, July 14

Grange Thistle	v	Eastern Suburbs	Perry Park	12.30pm
Rochedale Rovers	v	Wynnum	Perry Park	2.30pm
Nerang	v	North Star	Glennon Park	2.45pm
Coalstar	v	Brisbane Lions	Eric Evans Reserve	2.45pm

Northern New South Wales

NBN FIRST DIVISION

Cessnock Hornets.....0	Pasminco Roosters.....0
Maitland Magpies.....1	Wallsend red Devils.....1
Weston Workers Bears...5	Deloraine Eagles.....3
Westy Workers Bluebells 1	Broadmeadow Magic.....1
Highfields4	Hamilton Warriors.....0

RESERVE GRADE

Cessnock Hornets.....4	Pasminco Roosters.....2
Maitland Magpies.....0	Wallsend red Devils.....1
Weston Workers Bears...2	Deloraine Eagles.....0
Westy Workers Bluebells 3	Broadmeadow Magic.....3
Highfields1	Hamilton Warriors.....4

TOOHEYS FIRST GRADE

Lambton Jaffas.....1	Singleton Strikers.....1
Dudley-Redhead Utd.....3	South Cardiff Gunners....0
Thornton Park.....6	Belmont Tigers.....2
Stockton Sharks.....1	Belmont-Swansea.....4
Toronto-Awaba.....2	Budgewoi Budgies.....3
Manning Mustangs.....5	Beresfield United.....2

TOOHEYS RESERVE GRADE

Lambton Jaffas.....4	Singleton Strikers.....0
Dudley-Redhead Utd.....1	South Cardiff Gunners....1
Thornton Park.....3	Belmont Tigers.....2
Stockton Sharks.....0	Belmont-Swansea.....3
Toronto-Awaba.....6	Budgewoi Budgies.....0
Manning Mustangs.....3	Beresfield United.....1

NBN FIRST GRADE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Weston Workers B	15	12	3	0	47	18	39
Highfields Wolves	14	11	2	1	50	8	35
Hamilton Warriors	15	10	1	4	32	24	31
Wallsend Red Devils	15	8	3	4	24	12	27
Deloraine Eagles	14	7	1	6	27	17	22
Westy Workers B	15	5	3	7	25	31	18
Broadmeadow Magic	15	4	2	9	27	45	14

Warrior Wizards make Magic

BY JAI McDERMOTT

The Hamilton Warriors pursuit of the northern first division crown gathered momentum last Friday night when they defeated fierce cross-town rivals Broadmeadow Magic 2-0.

Derby day again produced plenty of drama, with a healthy crowd treated to some highly entertaining football at Adamstown Oval.

The Magic were desperate to avenge the 4-0 drubbing suffered at the hands of the Warriors on the opening day of the season.

That day Hamilton looked ready to fulfil their role as one of the premierships favourites, tearing Broadmeadow apart with their incisive short-passing game.

The Warriors threatened to open the scoring as early as the second minute. Stopper Con Sakavaras came forward for a free kick swung in by Glen Chapman.

The big defender smashed his header against the crossbar from six metres.

The Magic recovered well from the early scare and a mixture of determination and aggression saw them match the visitors throughout the first half.

Led by the inspirational Goran Simic the Broadmeadow midfield interrupted Hamilton's fluid style limiting their ability to service the front pairing of Ben Lane and Breakers youngster Harry James.

Playing on the counter attack for most of the opening stanza, the Magic managed to create a few half chances of their own.

Lanky striker Vlad Popic

looked the most dangerous, showing a willingness to run at the Warriors defence.

The halftime break left the game poised for an exciting second stanza. Warriors coach Greg Smith urged his players to "get the ball moving quicker", confident the stinging Magic defence would eventually tire.

The opening exchanges of the second half saw Broadmeadow continue to frustrate the Warriors, and on the hour they almost took the lead through Steven Cachev.

The former Adamstown Rosebud attacker pounced on a loose ball in midfield, attempting an audacious chip from a full forty metres.

Cachev's efforts left stranded goalkeeper Jeff Callinan but to his relief he was saved by the crossbar.

Popic smashed the rebound back but he pulled his shot just wide of the far post.

Hamilton eventually opened the scoring in the 71st minute. After conceding a cheap through kick the Magic realised just how important their half chances had been.

Former St George midfielder Costa Kaimakama smashed his free kick from thirty metres.

Magic keeper Fred Daccione could not hold the blistering strike, a goalmouth scramble eventually ending with Sakavaras stabbing home.

Sakavaras was magnificent for the Warriors, offering a different attacking option.

As expected, the goal brought the Magic out of defence as they searched for a quick reply.

The Warriors revelled with the extra space in attack and they soon settled into their usual short passing game.

Disabled kids "given a chance"

BY DANE SKAFTE

The NSW Sports council for the disabled Hunter region and the Newcastle Breakers soccer skills program was a great success according to 'life without barriers' coordinator Debbie McElligott.

"I was happy with the attendance and the weather was perfect on the day" McElligott said.

"The kids learned a lot from their coaches and enjoyed mixing with their peers" she said.

"All the students got a thrill out of meeting coach John Kosmina and learning different ball techniques" she said.

More than fifty high school students with disabilities were given a chance to show their soccer skills under Breakers coach John Kosmina and several of the Breakers players.

McElligott said that all the kids were a pleasure with their attitude on the day.

"This program allowed the kids to mix with the Breakers players and to develop their ability. The feedback that I have received so far has been overwhelming," McElligott concluded.

Halpin re-signs

Newcastle Breakers have announced the re-signing of striker Troy Halpin for the next two seasons.

Halpin signed the contract last week after having come to terms with the Breakers.

Breakers coach John Kosmina describes Halpin as a player capable of reaching the highest level and with further improvement could well be on his way to achieving his goal to play for the Socceroos. SBS commentator John Warren nominated Halpin as a 'rising star' after his goal against South Melbourne earlier in 1996. His successful strike was judged, 'goal of the week'.

Championships throw up potential

The Northern NSW Soccer Federation under 16 State Championships were completed last week at the

Hamilton scored a second just five minutes later, the Glen Chapman strike surely one of the goldens of the season.

After a frustrating time under the close attention of Breakers youth team defender Shane Locke, Harry James found space on the right flank.

He produced a magical turn, leaving two defenders before swinging a dangerous ball across the penalty box.

Chapman hit the cross with a stunning volley, which goalkeeper Fred Daccione barely saw.

Mark Viruski pulled a goal back for the Magic with three minutes remaining, capitalising on some tenacious work from substitute Chris Bozonovski,

Breakers stadium.

Macquarie took out the titles and were unbeaten in the four games after scoring 12 without reply!

Northern NSW Soccer Federation spokesman Alan Nisbet said the cup was a great success and a good opportunity for players from nine associations to be observed together.

"The 16 year old players had the opportunity to perform



John Kosmina & kids: Breakers coach breaks new ground.

in front of Breakers head coach John Kosmina and youth coach Greg Smith for the coming season.

Breakers youth coach Smith agreed that the form displayed by several teams was outstanding.

"There were a lot of good players over the two days and several will be asked to come and try out in August.

"We had the chance to look at all the good players at this crucial age instead of driving around the State trying to find them.

"Many people don't realise that the youth team this season goes to under 19s.

"There will be several players that will be asked to come and trial and show their ability at the training sessions and in game situations," Smith concluded.

Youngest World Cup player in Newcastle

Former Northern Ireland World Cup player Norman Whiteside will be in

but it all proved too late as Hamilton's title bid surged on.

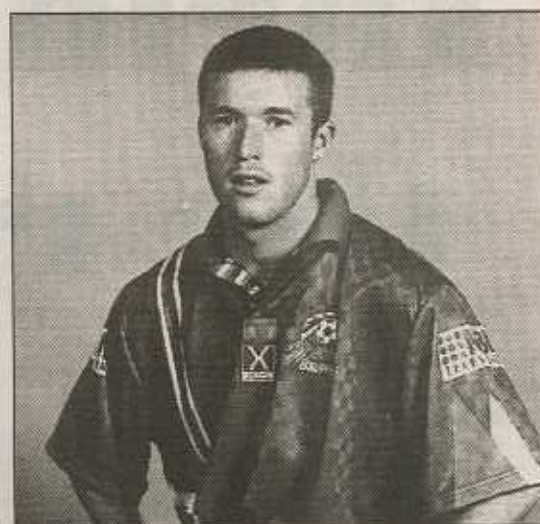
Warriors coach Greg Smith was delighted with the result but lamented the number of injuries suffered in the process. He said the physical approach of the Magic was not exactly what his team needed in the lead up to the clash with defending champions Highfields.

Magic's coach John Velles was "impressed with the effort of his team" claiming it was his sides "best performance of the year". He said bad luck in front of goals proved costly. "Particularly the chip by Bibi (Cacev) hitting the bar, it could have been different had that gone in."

Newcastle tomorrow, Wednesday July 10. He will conduct a junior coaching clinic organised by "Soccer coaching international".

Whiteside joined Manchester United as a schoolboy from his home in Belfast.

He made his league debut at the age of 16. He played over 200 games for Manchester United before his transfer to Everton. Whiteside



Troy Halpin: Breakers brilliant prospect has re-signed.

represented Northern Ireland 39 times. He captained Northern Ireland and Manchester United.

Whiteside was the youngest player to score in an FA Cup Final, and the youngest player to play in the World Cup beating Pele's record.

Whiteside was 17 years 41 days when on June 17, 1982 he played in the 0-0 draw with the then, Yugoslavia. Unfortunately he was forced

to retire due to injury at the age of 26, and is now a fully qualified FA Staff coach.

The clinic will run from 10am to 4pm at the Jack McLaughlan Oval in Edgeworth, home of the Deloraine Eagles.

For further information on vacancies contact: Bob Naumov (049) 69 1069 or 014 429 540.

ILLAWARRA PREMIER LEAGUE

BY DEAN SIMPSON

Courageous comeback of the week goes to Northern United. Their match against Dapto at Kanahooka Lodge was poised at 1-1 when midfielders Jason Wenig and Bill Glancy were sent off by referee Mario Mastroianni within the space of 15 minutes in the second half.

Battling on with nine men, Northern would have been satisfied to simply hold out for the last 15 minutes, but not striker Declan Dowd.

Deep into injury time, Dapto failed to clear a corner and Dowd pounced to fire home the winner, securing an upset 2-1 win and a vital three points for the battling northerners.

Wenig was sent off in the 60th minute for throwing a punch after earlier receiving a yellow card, while Glancy was dismissed in the 75th minute for a second bookable offence.

Gavin O'Brien put Northern ahead in the 15th minute before Mick Dorrien equalised in the 30th.

The win keeps Northern abreast of the relegation zone, with Figtree, Coniston and Westderra below them.

Port Kembla's reserve grade side also staged an amazing comeback at the weekend. Down 3-1 with 10 minutes to go, Port Kembla rallied to score three late goals and post a 4-3 win.

Fernhill are staging a mid-season recovery thanks to the scoring touch of midfielder Ricky Peil.

It took the side eight matches to register their first win but they have been unbeaten in five of their past six outings with Peil getting among the goals.

The turning point came in round eight with a 2-0 win over Northern United at Memorial Park.

Coach Rob Giraldi said that victory was the confidence booster the side desperately needed. Peil has scored a goal in each of the past four games with Fernhill racking up 11 goals in that period.

Only one win out of the top four, Giraldi has his side primed for a big finish to the season.

Are Bulli's wheels starting to fall off? John Frew's lads started the season on fire but have lost five of their past six matches.

They are still clinging to fourth spot but there's a bunch of teams threatening to leapfrog them in the next few weeks if results don't improve.

A frustrated Frew has had a succession of injuries to key players which has been the main reason for the mid-season slump.

Bulli have been without key midfielder John Brown with an ankle ligament injury for the past eight games.

Others to have been sidelined through injury on occasions include Warren Baker, Gary Ashburner, Rod Paterson and Peter Bott, while Adam Hammersley is the latest casualty.

Frew, however, remains optimistic.

"We'll be there in the end. I'm glad we've had this little hiccup now and once we get everyone back on the paddock we'll come home strong," he said.

"Because of the injuries I had to bring in Ian Robinson and Luke Metcalf and they've done really well, so that's a positive."

An added bonus for Bulli has been the return of Steve Forshaw, who was released from Wollongong Wolves last week.

In the Premier League Balgownie beat Bulli 2-1 thanks to goals by Jason Zakara and Andrew Naylor from penalty, Robbie Bemi got the consolation.

Coniston fell 2-4 at home to Fernhill. The visitors were 4-0 up before late goals by Dean Gardiner and Lube Tolevski made the result more respectable.

Port Kembla also won away but more narrowly. Their single goal victory over West Figtree was thanks to a successful strike by Matt Borg.

Westderra were unfortunate to be beaten on home territory with an early goal from Noel Spencer and a late strike in response to their only goal courtesy of Stuart Vickers.



SUPER LEAGUE			1st	U/21
Canterbury M'ville Berries v Macarthur Rams	1-0	1-2		
Adamstown Rosebud v Rockdale City Suns	2-1	3-0		
St George Saints v Central Coast	7-1	4-0		
Illawarra Lions v Blacktown City	0-0	2-2		
Warringah Dolphins v Parramatta Eagles	1-2	1-4		
Bonnyrigg White Eagles v Sutherland Sharks	1-1	0-2		
Bankstown City Lions v Leichhardt Tigers	4-4	0-2		

DIVISION ONE			1st	U/21	U/18
Stanmore Hawks v Belmore Hercules	2-0	4-1	0-1		
Penrith Panthers v Fairfield Bulls	3-3	2-1	2-1		
Auburn United v Mt Pritchard	2-0	0-0	1-3		
Southern Minotaur v Dulwich Hill	3-1	4-0	4-0		
W Wanderers v Mt Druitt Town R	4-0	0-1	3-0		
Sydney Cosmos v Bathurst '75	2-1	3-0	2-1		

DIVISION TWO			1st	U/21	U/18
Liverpool City v Concord Juniors	P/P	P/P	P/P		
Prairiewood United v Uni of NSW	1-1	2-1	4-1		
Hurstville v Greystanes	3-0	0-7	1-2		
Trasandinos v Granville Greenisland	0-0	9-1	0-5		
Alexandria Warriors v AC United	3-1	3-3	0-2		
Parramatta City v Sydney District	2-0	1-0	6-2		

DIVISION THREE			1st	2nd
Moorebank Sports v Prospect United	P/P	P/P		
Hawkesbury City v White City	5-3	0-1		
Gladesville United v Glebe Wanderers	3-2	1-2		
Earlwood Hermes v St John's Park	0-2	2-1		
Hakoah v Colo Colo	0-0	0-2		
The Wanderers v Sporting SCC	2-1	2-2		

DIVISION FOUR			1st	2nd
Sydney Uni v Balmain	9-0	1-0		
St Joseph's v Springwood	5-0	4-3		
CSI Schofields v Lithgow Workmen	8-1	4-2		
Fairfield Kings v Arncliffe Scots	1-4	3-3		
Fraser Park v Canley Vale Condors	1-0	5-1		
Angels Liverpool United v Marrickville Reds	2-1	0-2		

DIVISION FIVE			1st	2nd
Gladesville Hornsby v Maroubra United	2-1	3-1		
Camden v Mascot Kings	2-3	4-1		
United Eagles v Ava United	2-1	3-2		

DIVISION SIX			1st	2nd
Racing v Homenetmen	4-2	3-0		
Queens Park v Bossy	P/P	2-2		
NSW Police v Blacktown Premier	0-3	2-2		

DIVISION ONE — WOMEN'S			1st	2nd
St George v Blacktown City	P/P	P/P		
N/A	N/A	N/A		
Sutherland Shire v Macquarie District	3-0	1-0		
Northern NSW ITC v Marconi	1-1	N/A		
Sydney Cosmos v UWS Macarthur	1-1	3-0		

DIVISION TWO			1st	2nd
Macarthur (1) v Uni of NSW	2-2			
Bathurst v Moorebank (1)	1-4			
Sydney United v Illawarra Lions	P/P			
Macarthur (2) v Sydney Cosmos	0-7			
Liverpool Olympic v Penrith Panthers	W/O			
St George Association v Moorebank (2)	16-0			

WARATAH CUP

Parramatta Eagles 0
Ryde City 0
(Parramatta won 5-4 on penalties)

Sydney Cosmos 9
Auburn United 0

Bathurst 75 1
Stanmore Hawks 0

SAINTS CRUSH COASTIES

ST GEORGE 7 CENTRAL COAST 1

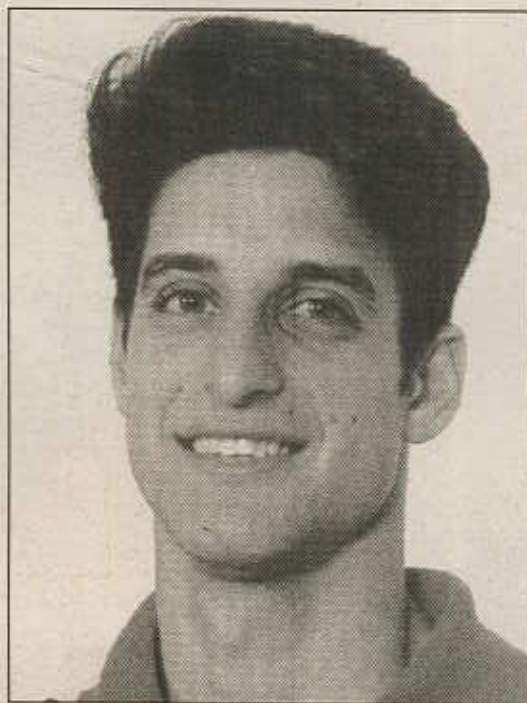
The Saints scored the biggest win in the Super League this season demolishing Central Coast 7-1 and sounding a warning to 70 other teams about their intentions for '96.

Steve Karavatakis and John Bonouvouglia scored a hat-trick each, again showing their class and breathtaking attacking flair.

The Coasties went 1-0 up through a scramble in the Saints defence in the 15th minute. Matthew Heighway was the scorer.

Bonouvouglia on a piercing run into the box was upended. The penalty was converted by Karavatakis to make it 1-1. The Saints attacked in waves and after a great build up Bonouvouglia beat two defenders and let go with a screamer from outside the box to make it 2-1.

The third wasn't long coming again from Bonouvouglia. The fourth was a scramble in the box Phil Treharn's header was deflected by Central Coast for an own goal. At this stage in the game with the score at 4-1 a frustrating Central Coast had a player sent off to make their afternoon even worse.



Steve Karavatakis: Ace striker who claimed a hat-trick.

With Saints coasting the second half began and a great through ball by Magiasis put Karavatakis through to make it 5-1.

The game deteriorated until Bonouvouglia completed his hat-trick to give the Saints

their sixth of the afternoon.

After another through ball by Magiasis and in the dying minutes Karavatakis got his third by teasing his opponents and easily rounding the keeper to make it 7-1.

SOCCER COACHING SET TO KICK OFF

The World's No. 1 soccer skills teaching method is set to make its mark in Australia.

Recognised the world over and fully endorsed by FIFA, COERVER COACHING methods will be taken out to the youngsters of Australia and the Oceania region from NSW. COERVER COACHING is all about teaching young players the outstanding technical skills at soccer and has triggered people's imagination the world over.

The method was initially created in the 1970s by European Cup winning coach Weil Coerver.

Through soccer videos, books, coaching camps and soccer schools, his methods have developed a reputation as the world's No. 1 "Grass roots" skills teaching method.

Since those early beginnings, Coerver has established an international program in Europe, Canada, Japan, Africa, the United States and now Oceania.

The program in Oceania will be controlled by Soccer NSW from their headquarters at Valentine Sports Park, Glenwood, in Sydney's northwest.

Coerver Coaching Oceania will be managed by Oscar Gonzales, a fully qualified level 3 coach who is employed by Soccer NSW.

Australia's youngest

Socceroo, Sydney born 17 year old Harry Kewell, has long been a student of Gonzales, and the COERVER COACHING method, Kewell, who has had a dream debut year with Leeds United in the English Premier League, returns to

England today but before departing spent some time with his former coach. "I called to see if Oscar had any new tricks I could take back with me."

The Coerver method is incredible in the moves you can learn," Kewell said.

NSW SOCCER FEDERATION SUPER LEAGUE

ROUND 22

SATURDAY JULY 13

Sutherland Sharks v Adamstown Rosebud
Seymour Shaw Park, 6.00pm

Central Coast v Illawarra Lions

Pluim Park, 6.00pm

Blacktown City Demons v Canterbury M'ville
Gabbie Stadium, 6.00pm

SUNDAY JULY 14

Rockdale City Suns v St George Saints

Rockdale Ilinden Sports Centre, 3.00pm

Macarthur Rams v Parramatta Eagles

Lynwood Park, 3.00pm

Leichhardt Tigers v Bonnyrigg White Eagles

Lambert Park, 3.00pm

Bankstown City Lions v Warringah Dolphins

Jensen Park, 3.00pm

SOCCER NSW INFORMATION SERVICE

0055 22885

Max. call cost 75c/min. — IDS
(Higher rate applies with mobile and public phones)

SUPER LEAGUE FIRST GRADE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Sutherland Sharks	8	4	4	0	10	4	16
Parramatta Eagles	7	4	3	0	9	3	15
St George Saints	7	4	2	1	17	6	14
Illawarra Lions	7	4	1	2	15	12	13
Leichhardt Tigers	8	3	4	1	13	13	13
Bonnyrigg W/Eagle	8	3	2	3	15	11	11
Blacktown City	8	2	3	3	15	14	9
Macarthur Rams	7	3	0	4	7	6	9
Rockdale City Sun	7	2	3	2	10	10	9
Adamstown	8	2	2	4	8	16	8
Canterbury Berrys	8	1	4	3	6	10	7
Warringah Dolphin	8	1	3	4	9	13	6
Bankstown City	6	1	2	3	9	15	5
Central Coast	7	0	3	4	7	17	3

UNDER 21

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Parramatta Eagles	7	6	1	0	22	6	19
Sutherland Sharks	8	6	1	1	17	2	19
St George Saints	7	5	1	1	26	7	16
Blacktown City	8	5	1	2	22	11	16
Macarthur Rams	7	5	1	1	15	5	16
Bonnyrigg W/Eagle	8	4	1	3	15	14	13
Adamstown Rosebud	8	4	0	4	20	22	12
Warringah Dolphin	8	3	1	4	14	15	10
Canterbury Berrys	8	2	2	4	20	23	8
Leichhardt Tigers	8	2	1	5	8	16	7
Rockdale City Sun	7	1	1	5	9	15	4
Central coast	7	1	1	5	6	15	4
Bankstown City	6	1	1	4	6	18	4
Illawarra Lions	7	0	1	6	5	36	1

FEDERATION DIVISION ONE FIRST GRADE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Sydney Cosmos	28	11	6	1	43	13	39
Auburn United	18	9	4	5	48	48	31
Belmore Hercules	18	8	6	4	43	24	30
Penrith Panthers	16	6	5	5	34	31	29
Ryde City	17	7	6	4	29	15	27
Hills United	18	8	3	7	35	27	27
Bathurst '75	17	7	6	4	25	19	27
West Wanderers	18	6	4	8	26	34	22
Dulwich Hill	17	5	4	8	21	26	19
Mt Druitt Town	18	5	4	9	23	51	19
Stanmore Hawks	17	4	6	7	26	34	18
Sthn Minotaurs	17	5	3	9	24	35	18
Fairfield Bulls	17	4	4	9	29	36	16
Mt Pritchard	18	3	5	10	21	34	14

FEDERATION DIVISION TWO FIRST GRADE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Greystanes	16	10	3	3	36	17	33
Hurstville	16	8	5	3	30	20	29
Alexandria Warrior	16	8	4	4	34	24	28
Concord Juniors	15	7	5	3	35	17	26
Sydney District	15	7	4	4	20	20	25
Trasandinos	14	6	3	5	16	19	21
Parramatta City	16	5	4	7	18	19	19
AC United	15	4	5	6	16	23	17
Liverpool city	15	4	3	8	27	28	15
Prairiewood	14	3	5	6	13	21	14
Uni of NSW	15	1	10	4	18	22	13
Granville G/Island	15	1	3	11	17	50	6

DIVISION ONE — WOMEN'S FIRST GRADE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
N.NSW ITC	14	11	2	1	45	9	36
Sydney Cosmos	15	10	1	4	41	17	31
Marconi SC	15	9	3	3	35	15	30
NSW ITC/Penrith	13	7	2	4	29	18	23
Sutherland Shire	15	7	2	6	19	23	23
St George	13	6	3	4	37	24	21
UWS Macarthur	15	5	5	5	20	23	20
Gladesville Raven	15	3	4	8	15	36	13
Blacktown City	14	1	1	12	8	40	4
Macquarie Dist.	15	1	1	13	11	55	4

Paul Agostino
AUSTRALIAN
OLYMPIAN



Australian & British
SOCCER WEEKLY

Mark Viduka
AUSTRALIAN
OLYMPIAN



Commonwealth Bank & Schools

COMMONWEALTH BANK CUP REGIONAL FINALS: Kingsgrove North 4 Sydney Tech 2, Kogarah 2 Marrickville 1, Ku-ring-gai 1 Henry Kendall 0, Concord 5 Hunters Hill 1, Seven Hills 1 Granville South 0, Colyton 4 St Clair 2, Westfields 2 Condell Park 0, Leumeah 2 Hoxton Park 1, Glendale 2 Cessnock 1, Mount View 1 Whitebridge 0, Kadina 2 Woolgoolga 1, Koorling 2 Griffith 1, Keira 3 Berkeley 1, Delroy 2 Orange 1.

COMMONWEALTH BANK SHIELD REGIONAL FINALS: Kingsgrove 5 Peakhurst 0, Port Hacking 2 Menai 0, Pennant Hills 2 Lisarow 1, Riverside Girls 4 Manly 1, Arthur Phillip 9 Quakers Hill 0, Riverstone 2 Whalan 1, Westfields 3 Elderslie 0, Robert Townson 7 Bass 4, Swansea 2 Chatham 0, West Wallsend 3 Cardiff 1, Cootamundra 3 Griffith 2, Dubbo South 5 Orange 3, Batemans Bay 2 Ulladulla 1, Mulwara 2 Corral 1.

WORLD NEWS

ADIDAS TAKE OVER FRENCH CLUB

A bid by German sports good manufacturer Adidas to take over French football club Olympique Marseille has been accepted, the city's mayor Jean-Claude Gaudin confirmed last week.

Adidas was one of three organisations to make an offer for the club, newly promoted to France's Division One and which has been run by the local council since July 1995.

The 1993 European Cup winner spent the past two seasons in Division Two after being relegated for financial improprieties and match fixing by its former president Bernard Tapie, ironically a former owner of Adidas.

WEAH FOR MLS?

George Weah, the overwhelming choice as the top player in the world last year, has said he would like to play in the new US premier league some day.

The Liberian native, under contract with Italian League champions AC Milan for the next three years, said on a visit to New York, that he wanted to play for the New York New Jersey MetroStars of the fledgling Major League Soccer.



"I'd be happy to play here," Weah said of the local MLS club while signing autographs for fans at an African artefacts store.

"I've got friends and family here."

The 30-year-old star owns homes and a restaurant in the New York City area and his wife

Clare, who is from Brooklyn, would not mind a permanent home coming.

Weah said he would like to join the MetroStars right away. But his transfer fee of at least \$A20 million, would be far too costly for the MLS.



"George Weah would be ideal for us but the chance of him coming next year is unrealistic," MetroStars General Manager Charlie Stillitano said.

"As the league grows, it might be an option in the future."



Weah's immediate plans are to fly to Jamaica for an African All-Star team match against the Jamaican National Team.

He will then return to New York to play for the FIFA World All-Stars at Giants Stadium on July 14.

FIFA DECISION SLAMMED IN EUROPE

The European Broadcasting Union (EBU), reacted angrily to FIFA's decision to award a \$2.82 billion World Cup television rights deal to Bavarian media mogul Leo Kirch and Swiss-based marketing agency ISL.

Jean-Bernard Muensch, secretary-general of the EBU the main rival to Kirch and the ISL said the conditions under which the contract was awarded were "completely biased".

"Apparently FIFA wants fair play on the football field but doesn't play fair itself."

SWEDEN FIRST DIVISION

— July 3 —

Degerfors	3	Norrkoping	1
Gothenburg	4	Helsingborg	1
Halmstad	1	Trelleborg	0
Oddevold	0	AIK	0
Oster	2	Orebro	1
Djurgarden	0	Malmö	1

TABLE

Gothenburg	13	8	3	2	25	6	27
Helsingborg	13	8	3	2	22	11	27
Halmstad	13	7	3	3	17	14	24
Oster	13	6	3	4	17	16	21
Malmö	12	5	5	2	12	7	20
Orgryte	12	5	3	4	14	9	18
Norrkoping	13	4	5	4	15	12	17
AIK	13	4	3	6	10	14	15
Degerfors	12	4	3	5	14	24	15
Djurgarden	13	4	2	7	11	16	14
Umea	12	3	4	5	13	19	13
Oddevold	13	3	3	7	9	16	12
Orebro	13	3	2	8	11	18	11
Trelleborg	13	3	2	8	14	22	11

RUSSIAN PREMIER DIVISION

— July 3 —

Rostselmash Rostov	2	L Nizhny Novgorod	2
Zenit St Petersburg	2	T Kamyshev	0
Zhemchuzhina Sochi	2	Lada Togliatti	1
Alania Vladikavkaz	0	CSKA Moscow	1
C Novorossiysk	1	Loko Moscow	1
K Naberezhnye Chelny	2	U Yekaterinburg	1
Dynamo Moscow	2	Spartak Moscow	1
Baltika Kaliningrad	0	Rotor Volgograd	1
Torpedo Moscow	1	U Yekaterinburg	0

TABLE

A Vladikavkaz	15	10	2	3	26	13	32
Rotor Volgograd	15	9	5	1	23	8	32
Spartak Moscow	14	9	3	2	25	8	30
CSKA Moscow	14	9	3	2	23	11	30
Dynamo Moscow	14	7	6	1	21	8	27
L N Novgorod	14	7	2	5	15	19	23
Loko Moscow	15	5	7	3	16	11	22
Sovetov Samara	14	5	5	4	10	9	20
Torpedo Moscow	14	5	5	4	16	16	20
R Rostov	14	4	4	6	21	21	16
Zenit St Petersburg	13	4	4	5	12	13	16
B Kaliningrad	14	3	6	5	14	20	15
K N Chelny	15	3	3	9	12	22	12
Z Sochi	14	3	3	8	12	26	12
C Novorossiysk	15	2	4	9	13	24	10
Lada Togliatti	15	2	4	9	8	22	10
T Kamyshev	13	1	7	5	7	11	10
U Yekaterinburg	15	1	5	9	12	25	8

ALGERIA CUP FINAL

— July 5 —

Mouloudia (Oran)	1	Ittihad Blida	0
AET			
Belatoui (115)			
Crowd: 60,000			

RUSSIA PREMIER DIVISION

— July 6 —

Lada Togliatti	0	Alania Vladikavkaz	3
T Kamyshev	0	Z Sochi	1
L Nizhny Novgorod	2	Z St Petersburg	1
K Sovietov Samara	0	Rostselmash Rostov	2
Spartak Moscow	2	Torpedo Moscow	2
Dynamo Moscow	1	K N Chelny	0

TUNISIA CUP FINAL

— July 6 —

Etoile Sporting de Sahel	2		
Jeunesse Sportive Kairouanaise	1		
Scorers: Etoile — Younes (65) Raouane (86)			
Jeunesse — Bargou (47)			
Crowd: 30,000			

FINLAND FIRST DIVISION

— July 5 —

FinnPa	1	Jaro	1
Haka	2	HJK	1
MyPa	1	Ilves	0
RoPS	3	MP	1
TPS	1	Jazz	0

TABLE

Inter	13	8	3	2	18	9	27
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TPS	14	7	4	3	21	16	25
Jazz	14	5	6	3	22	16	21
Jaro	13	6	2	5	14	10	20
RoPS	14	5	4	5	19	15	19
MyPa	13	5	3	5	20	20	18
Haka	13	5	3	5	13	14	18
HJK	14	5	2	7	14	20	17
VPS	13	4	3	6	10	12	15
Ilves	13	4	3	6	10	16	15
FinnPa	13	3	5	5	13	14	14
MP	13	3	2	8	8	20	11

USA MLS

— July 5 —

Tampa Bay	4	Columbus	1
Dallas	2	DC United	
	(shootout)		
Colorado	2	NY/New Jersey	1
Los Angeles	0	New England	1



UEFA CUP PRELIMINARY ROUND

Jeunesse d'Esch (Luxembourg) v Legia Warsaw (Poland)
 Lantana (Estonia) v Vestmannaeyja (Iceland)
 Becej (Yugoslavia) v Mura (Slovenia)
 Zalgiris Vilnius (Lithuania) v Crusaders (Northern Ireland)
 Newton (Wales) v Skonto (Latvia)
 Tiligul Tiraspol (Moldova) v Dynamo-93 Minsk (Belarus)
 Khazri Buzovna (Azerbaijan) v Hutnik Krakov (Poland)
 Portadown (Northern Ireland) v Vojvodina (Yugoslavia)
 Qotu Itrottarfelag (Faroe Islands) v Jazz (Finland)
 Akranes (Iceland) v Sileks (Macedonia)
 Bohemians (Ireland) v Dynamo Minsk (Belarus)
 Haka Ry (Finland) v Flora Tallinn (Estonia)
 Barry Town (Wales) v Dinaburg (Latvia)
 Dynamo Tbilisi (Georgia) v Grevenmacher (Luxembourg)
 Maccabi Haifa (Israel) v Partizan Belgrade (Yugoslavia)
 Hilt Gorica (Slovenia) v Vardar (Macedonia)
 Croatia Zagreb (Croatia) v Tirana (Albania)
 Beitar Jerusalem (Israel) v Floriana (Malta)
 Pyunic Yerevan (Armenia) v HJK Helsinki (Finland)
 Sandoyar (Faroe Islands) v Apoel Nicosia (Cyprus)
 Lokomotiv Sofia (Bulgaria) v Neftchi Baku (Azerbaijan)
 Simbru Chisinau (Moldova) v Hajduk Split (Croatia)
 Slovan Bratislava (Slovakia) v St Patrick's Athletic (Ireland)
 Kosice (Slovakia) v Teuta (Albania)
 Anorthosis (Cyprus) v Shirak Gyumris (Armenia)
 Margveti Zestaphoni (Georgia) v Sliema Wanderers (Malta)
 Slavia Sofia (Bulgaria) v Inkaras-Grifas (Lithuania)
 First leg matches July 17, second leg July 24.

CUP WINNERS' CUP QUALIFYING ROUND

Chemlon Humenne (Slovakia) v Flamurtari (Albania)
 Sion (Switzerland) v Kareda Siauliai (Lithuania)
 Olimpija (Slovenia) v Levski Sofia (Bulgaria)
 Crvena Zvezda (Yugoslavia) v Hearts (Scotland)
 Karabakh Agdam (Azerbaijan) v MyPa-47 (Finland)

Kotaik Abovian (Armenia) v AEK Larnaca (Cyprus)
 FC Constructorul (Moldova) v Hapoel Ironi Rishon (Israel)
 Valletta (Malta) v Gloria Bistrita (Romania)
 MPCC Mozyr (Belarus) v Reykjavik (Iceland)
 SK Brann (Norway) v Shelbourne (Ireland)
 Llansantffraid (Wales) v Ruch Chorzow (Poland)
 Kispest Honved (Hungary) v FC Sloga Jugomagnat (Macedonia)
 FC Varteks (Croatia) v US Luxembourg (Luxembourg)
 FC Universitate (Latvia) v FC Vaduz (Liechtenstein)
 Glentoran (Northern Ireland) v Sparta Prague (Czech Republic)
 Dynamo Batumi (Georgia) v Havnar Boltfelag (Faroe Islands)
 Sadam Tallinn (Estonia) v Niva Vinnitsa (Ukraine)
 First leg matches August 8, second leg August 22.

EUROPEAN CUP QUALIFYING ROUND

Maccabi Tel Aviv (Israel) v Fenerbahce (Turkey)



Rangers (Scotland) v Alania Vladikavkaz (Russia)



Panathinaikos (Greece) v Rosenborg BK (Norway)
 IFK Gothenburg (Sweden) v Ferencvaros (Hungary)
 Widzew Lodz (Poland) v Brondby IF (Denmark)
 Grasshopper Zurich (Switzerland) v Slavia Prague (Czech Republic)
 Club Brugge (Belgium) v Steaua Bucharest (Romania)
 Rapid Vienna (Austria) v Dynamo Kiev (Ukraine)



First leg matches August 7, second leg August 21.





WORLD STORIES

Racism exists in La Belle France

Extreme right-wing leader Jean-Marie Le Pen, unmoved by France's qualification for the European Championship semi-finals, hit out at players of foreign origin who could not sing the national anthem.

"It is a bit artificial to bring players from abroad and call it the French team," the anti-immigrant politician known for his provocative statements told reporters.

"The players in other teams sing their national anthem with all their heart...Most players in the French team don't sing it and don't even know it," he said.

Le Pen advocates sending immigrants home.



Several players in the French team are of foreign descent, or hail from French overseas territories, but all have French citizenship.

Among them are goalkeeper Bernard Lama, from French Guiana.

Youri Djorkaeff, who scored against Spain, is of Armenian descent. his father was capped for France.

Soccer stops Parliament

Czech coalition leaders put openalties before politics last month, turning up late for key talks on forming a new government so they could watch the national team reach the Euro 96 final.

The Czech Republic has been in a constitutional limbo for almost a month since the right-wing government lost its majority in parliamentary elections.

Party leaders scheduled the latest round of the seemingly endless coalition negotiations for 7.30pm when everybody thought the semi-final against France at Old Trafford, Manchester, would be over.

But when the goalless match dragged on into a penalty shoot-out, Prime Minister Vaclav Klaus and his coalition partners put sport before affairs of state to watch the Czechs win 6-5 in the shoot-out.

Klaus, never a man to miss a sporting occasion to get more air time, arrived half an hour late for the talks, explaining he had to send a congratulatory telegram to the team.

"It was fantastic, unreal," he told reporters following the talks. "I hope the coalition talks will be made that much easier now."

Deputy premier Jan Kalvoda waved V for victory signs as he arrived for the talks in his official limousine.

Jubilant hit the streets of Prague as Czechs waving national flags drove around the city blowing car horns.

Waiters emerged from restaurants to embrace complete strangers and one Bulgarian, unimpressed by the Czech fervour, caused a minor accident as he tried to jump the traffic jam in his jeep.

FIFA sign up in billions for World Cup

FIFA announced a \$A2.82 billion television rights deal last Wednesday that will propel its showpiece event into the same big money league as the Olympic Games.

Under the deal agreed by the executive committee, FIFA will receive more than \$A1.28 billion in television revenue for the 2002 World Cup finals and \$A1.54 billion for the tournament in 2006.



The deal with German media mogul Leo Kirch and Swiss-based marketing agency ISL will end more than a quarter of a century of guaranteed access for public service broadcasters to the world's biggest single sporting event.

But FIFA general secretary Sepp Blatter said FIFA retained control of the television rights and could promise that ordinary viewers who could not afford expensive cable or satellite television channels would still be able to watch the World Cup finals.

"We want to know that the best coverage is done because football should be accessible to everyone — which means that in Mali, in the mountains of Switzerland and in Bolivia people have the right to see the World Cup," Blatter told a news conference at FIFA's Zurich headquarters.

"This is our responsibility, to make sure that they see it. It is our duty," he added.

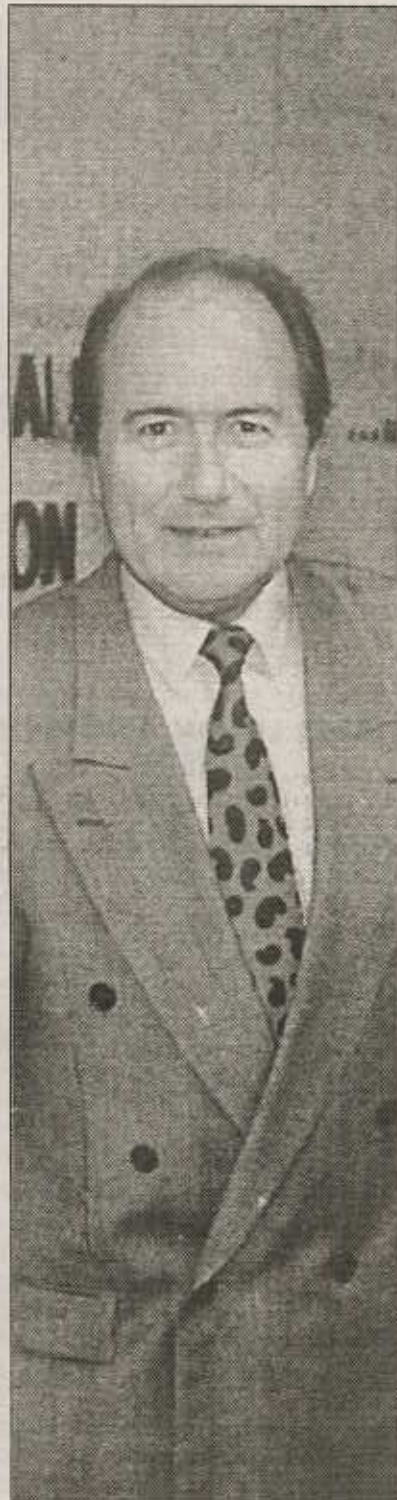
FIFA's previous failure to capitalise on television rights has been part of the power struggle in world soccer between the body's veteran president Joao Havelange and UEFA's Lennart Johansson.

Firing the opening shot in a battle to win the world body's presidency, Johansson last year complained that FIFA's current deal undervalued the competition by a factor of at least four.

Wednesday's deal, although it was expected to bolster Havelange, proved the Swede right. FIFA received a meagre \$110 million for television rights to the 1994 World Cup finals and the 1998 tournament will bring in only \$230 million.

Sporis Holding AG is 90 per cent owned by the Dassler family, former owners of the Adidas sportswear firm.

Any revenue over 1.3 billion francs will be shared equally by Sporis-Kirch and FIFA, echoing the profit-sharing arrangement in a recent deal between US network NBC and the International Olympic Committee.



Sepp Blatter: "Viewers without cable or satellite will still be able to watch the World Cup."

FIFA honours for Moore and Kissinger

English World Cup-winning captain Bobby Moore and Nobel Peace Prize winner Dr Henry Kissinger were honoured by FIFA last Wednesday for their contributions to soccer.

Moore, described as "one of the greatest gentlemen the world of football has ever known" by FIFA general-secretary Sepp Blatter, was posthumously decorated with the International Football Federation's Order of Merit.

The gold award, world soccer's highest individual honour, was accepted by his widow Stephanie at the opening of FIFA's 50th Congress in Zurich — almost 30 years to the day after Moore lifted the World Cup at Wembley.



Bobby Moore: A posthumous award for the only English captain to lift the World Cup.

"His fame and reputation as an outstanding sportsman was known throughout the world. He was the 'Golden Boy' of English football," FIFA official Keith Cooper said.

"He was an immaculate athlete and unrivalled in his ability to read the game.

He was fearless and an inspiring leader and a model of fair play even in defeat."

Moore, capped 108 times for England and 91 times as captain, died of cancer in 1993. He was 51.

"It was a tremendous honour for Bobby to be recognised by FIFA," his widow Stephanie said after the ceremony.

"I was very proud to collect the award. He

would have been quietly proud to receive such an award."

Former US Secretary of State Kissinger, awarded the Nobel Peace prize for helping to end the Vietnam War, was also honoured.

"This is to acknowledge his support for football and his contribution to raising the visibility and credibility of the game in the U.S. and to honour the part he played in ensuring the success of the 1994 World Cup," Blatter said.

Among others who received the Order of Merit were Brazilian Zico, who played in three World Cups and was South American player of the year three times, and Salif Keita of Mali, the first African player to succeed outside the continent.

Croatian Corner

By John Viskovich

Goran Vlaovic's wife Milana has given birth to their second son.

The name of their first son is Stjepan who was born in Italy while their new born is named Mario and he was born in Manchester, England. The family are still in Manchester where Manchester Utd. manager Alex Ferguson hopes to sign Goran for next season. The 23 year old striker has not agreed to terms yet as he is also being chased by Napoli of Italy and Valencia of Spain.

New Bayern Munich coach Giovanni Trapattoni has rated Croatia's Alen Boksic as good as Polish 80s sensation Boniek. Trapattoni, one of Italy's most respected coaches strongly believes Juventus have made a good purchase because Boksic will add plenty to Juve's attack as did Boniek years ago.

Robert Jarni could be on his way to Arsenal. His club Real Betis have made a big money bid for Arsenal's Dutchman Denis Bergkamp and will also include the Croat in the deal.

Mario Stanic one of Croatia's Euro 96 stars is more than likely leaving his club F.C. Brugge of Belgium. After winning the League and Cup as well finishing top striker

in that country all his offers seem to be from Italy. Fiorentina and Udinese are the front runners but Lazio has also shown interest. They have also signed his Aussie teammate Paul Okon.

His fellow Croat at FC Brugge Robert Spehar (who missed Euro 96) is likely to stay and many tip him to be named captain as they fly into the Champions Cup next season.

MARIO STANIC PROFILE

'CROATIA'S NEW SENSATION'

DATE OF BIRTH: 10.4.72

CLUBS: Zeljeznicar (90), Dinamo Zagreb (92-93), Sporting Gijon, Spain (94), Benfica, Portugal (95), FC Brugge, Belgium (1996).

WORST ASPECTS: Losing to Hajduk in 92 for the Cup 1-4.

BEST ASPECTS: Scored 5 goals on debut for FC Brugge; Top scorer in Belgium 96; Making Croatia's Euro 96 squad; Played for Croatia 9 times, scored 2 goals.

Davor Suker really is the best striker in Europe and here is the proof:—

Name	Country	Games	Goals	Age
1. D Suker	Croatia	22	20	28
2. Y Djorkaeff	France	20	11	28
3. H Stoickov	Bulgaria	64	34	30
4. F Raducioiu	Romania	40	21	26
5. D Bergkamp	Holland	48	25	27
6. D Platt	England	57	27	30
7. H Sukur	Turkey	31	14	25
8. J Klinsmann	Germany	87	38	32
9. S Kirjakov	Russia	35	15	26
10. P Kuka	Czech R	46	18	28
11. J Salinas	Spain	56	22	34
12. M Laudrup	Denmark	91	35	32
13. K Turkylmaz	Swiss	52	20	26
14. P Casiraghi	Italy	34	10	27
16. J Pinto	Portugal	24	7	25

For more Croatian Sports News tune into CRO 2000 with presenter Ante Grabovac. The program is broadcast in English on Sydney's 98.5 FM at 8.50pm Wednesdays — Don't miss it!



Davor Suker: His 20 goals in 22 games makes him the "best" striker in Europe.



Victorian Ladders



PREMIER LEAGUE LADDER

FIRSTS							
P	W	D	L	F	A	PT	
Sunshine GX	20	14	3	3	33	19	45
Heidelberg Utd	20	13	4	3	48	22	43
Bentleigh Green	20	13	3	4	42	22	42
Altona Gate	20	13	1	6	42	22	40
Thomastown Zeb.	20	11	4	5	39	26	37
Green Gully	20	8	8	4	32	25	32
Port Melbourne	20	8	7	5	46	34	31
Bulleen	20	7	6	7	29	29	27
North Geelong	20	7	4	9	24	33	25
Box Hill Inter	20	5	4	11	24	43	19
St Albans	20	4	3	13	23	40	15
Fawkner	20	3	4	13	18	40	13
Albion	20	2	5	13	17	37	11
Springvale City	2	3	2	15	21	46	11

RESERVES

P	W	D	L	F	A	PT	
Heidelberg Utd	20	15	0	5	61	36	45
Thomastown	19	13	2	4	47	19	41
Port Melbourne	20	11	4	3	41	25	37
Bulleen	19	10	2	7	48	29	32
Bentleigh Green	18	10	2	6	45	37	32
Sunshine G.X.	20	7	9	4	35	31	30
Green Gully	19	8	4	7	40	32	28
Fawkner	19	7	4	8	31	43	25
Altona Gate	19	7	2	10	40	44	23
Box Hill Inter	19	6	5	8	31	37	23
Springvale City	19	5	6	8	44	41	21
Albion	20	6	1	13	33	65	19
St Albans	19	3	6	10	20	35	15
North Geelong	20	3	1	16	20	62	10

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 1

FIRSTS

P	W	D	L	F	A	PT	
Sp White Eagles	16	11	2	3	36	15	35
Preston Lions	16	9	5	2	27	10	32
West Suburbs	16	8	5	3	19	11	29
Lalor Utd	16	8	4	4	40	28	28
Kings City	16	7	7	2	20	15	28
C'don City Dons	16	7	5	4	33	18	26
Richmond	15	6	7	2	22	16	25
Werribee City	16	6	1	9	24	23	19
Don'ster Rovers	16	4	7	5	19	22	19
Moorabbin City	15	5	4	6	17	20	19
Westgate	16	4	5	7	28	32	17
Northcote City	15	3	5	7	13	22	14
Broadmeadows	15	2	1	12	14	42	7
Glen Eira City	16	0	2	14	9	47	2

RESERVES

P	W	D	L	F	A	PT	
Werribee City	16	10	3	3	31	20	23
Don'ster Rovers	16	10	1	5	39	19	31
Preston	13	10	1	2	32	12	31
Moorabbin City	14	9	3	2	33	12	30
Croydon City	16	9	2	5	36	21	29
Richmond	13	7	3	3	22	14	24
Sp White Eagles	15	7	1	7	42	29	22
Lalor United	16	7	1	8	39	28	22
Kings City	16	6	3	7	33	28	21
West Suburbs	13	5	1	7	25	31	16
Northcote City	15	4	1	10	15	49	13
Glen Eira City	16	3	1	12	16	45	10
Westgate	14	3	0	11	11	44	9
Broadmeadows	13	2	1	10	10	32	7

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 2

FIRSTS

P	W	D	L	F	A	PT	
Westvale	16	12	2	2	64	16	35
Altona East	16	10	4	2	36	20	34
Sth Dandenong	16	10	2	4	36	21	32
Altona City	16	8	3	5	28	15	27
Waverley City	16	6	4	6	31	34	22
Frankston Pines	16	5	6	5	24	23	21
Ess Brun Royals	16	5	6	5	17	18	21
Knox City	16	5	6	5	22	29	21
Regent Bulla	16	4	7	5	14	20	19
East Richmond	15	5	3	7	27	25	18
Nunawading City	16	3	5	8	18	43	14
Bell Park	15	3	3	9	17	26	12

RESERVES

P	W	D	L	F	A	PT	
Langwarrin	16	13	2	1	58	12	41
Sunbury Utd	16	11	2	3	25	11	35
Sun Heights	16	10	4	2	44	9	34
Nth Coburg Utd	16	9	2	5	48	32	29
Stonnington	15	9	2	4	33	18	29
Yarraville	16	7	4	5	36	24	25
Lalor	15	6	6	3	28	25	24
Seaford Utd	16	5	6	5	36	27	21
Moreland City	16	5	2	9	28	29	17
Monbulk	16	4	4	8	18	31	16
Geelong	16	4	4	8	18	49	16
Corio	16	3	5	8	19	34	14

Mooroolbark	16	3	3	10	17	33	12
Oakland	16	2	6	8	17	45	12

RESERVES

P	W	D	L	F	A	PT	
Frankston Pines	16	13	1	2	36	13	40
Waverley City	16	11	0	5	53	27	33
Altona City	16	10	0	6	41	26	30
Ess Brun Royals	16	9	2	5	33	18	29
Regent Bulla	16	8	0	8	33	41	24
Mooroolbark	16	6	5	5	29	31	23
East Richmond	15	6	4	5	24	20	22
Oakland	16	7	0	9	45	35	21
Westvale	16	7	3	6	27	25	21
Knox City	16	6	2	8	31	35	20
Altona East	16	5	3	8	28	32	18
Nunawading City	16	4	2	10	26	43	14
Sth Dandenong	16	4	1	11	26	47	13
Bell Park	15	2	3	10	21	60	9

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 3

FIRSTS

P	W	D	L	F	A	PT	
Frankston	16	14	0	2	60	20	42
Ringwood City	16	9	5	2	38	12	32
Sth Springvale	15	10	1	4	40	18	31
Dia Valley Utd	16	9	1	6	20	22	28
Cranbourne	16	8	3	5	26	19	27
Sth Werribee	15	6	5	4	37	20	23
Fitzroy City	15	6	4	5	28	22	22
Sth Caulfield	16	7	2	7	33	34	20
Pascoe Vale	16	5	4	7	20	24	19
Melb City	16	4	4	8	24	31	16
Banyule	16	4	4	8	22	36	16
Keilor Eagles	16	3	5	8	14	25	14
Chelsea	16	2	3	11	22	10	9
Clifton Hill	15	1	3	11	11	42	6

RESERVES

P	W	D	L	F	A	PT	
Cranbourne	16	12	3	1	61	11	39
Ringwood City	15	12	1	2	44	14	37
Keilor Eagles	16	11	3	2	46	16	36
Sth Springvale	15	10	2	3	43	13	32
Dia Valley Utd	16	8	2	6	41	28	26
Fitzroy City	15	7	5	3	34	25	26
Melb City	16	6	4	6	30	26	22
Pascoe Vale	16	7	1	8	32	36	22
Sth Werribee	15	6	3	6	31	32	21
Frankston	16	5	4	7	43	34	19
Banyule	13	3	2	10	28	52	11
Sth Caulfield	16	2	5	9	15	33	8
Chelsea	16	2	0	14	18	65	6
Clifton Hill	15	0	1	14	6	87	1

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 4

FIRSTS

P	W	D	L	F	A	PT	
Yarraville	16	11	3	2	39	17	36
Geelong	16	10	4	2	39	17	36
Sun Heights	16	10	2	4	35	15	32
Nth Coburg Utd	16	10	2	4	41	25	32
Stonnington	16	9	1	6	32	21	28
Lalor	16	7	4	5	30	23	25
Monbulk	16	6	5	5	17	18	23
Langwarrin	16	5	5	6	32	29	20
Sunbury Utd	16	5	5	6	18	19	20
Seaford Utd	16	6	1	9	20	30	19
Moreland City	16	4	3	9	21	32	15
Corio	16	4	2	10	17	35	14
Williamstown	16	3	4	9	20	29	13
San'ham City	16	1	1	14	9	54	4

RESERVES

P	W	D	L	F	A	PT	
Langwarrin	16	13	2	1	58	12	41
Sunbury Utd	16	11	2	3	25	11	35
Sun Heights	16	10	4	2	44	9	34
Nth Coburg Utd	16	9	2	5	48	32	29
Stonnington	15	9	2	4	33	18	29
Yarraville	16	7	4	5	36	24	25
Lalor	15	6	6	3	28	25	24
Seaford Utd	16	5	6	5	36	27	21
Moreland City	16	5	2	9	28	29	17
Monbulk	16	4	4	8	18	31	16
Geelong	16	4	4	8	18	49	16
Corio	16	3	5	8	19	34	14

Williamstown	16	1	2	13	14	57	3
San'ham City	16	1	1	14	13	60	4

PROV LEAGUE DIVISION ONE

FIRSTS

P	W	D	L	F	A	PT	
Geel Rangers	14	9	3	2	37	14	30
Melton	14	8	4	2	28	14	28
Keysborough	14	9	1	4	26	14	28
Sth Wantirna	14	8	2	4	31	19	26
Sp'vale Condors	14	7	6	1	25	19	24
Knox Park	14	6	3	5	30	25	21
Mornington	14	6	2	6	19	24	20
Nth Sunshine	14	5	3	6	25	24	18
Mitcham Utd	14	6	0	8	23	24	18
Old Scotch-Haw	14	4	3	7	18	18	15
Glenroy	14	3	5	6	24	28	14
Doveton	14	3	5	6	18	24	14
Ballarat	14	3	2	9	11	30	11
Heidelberg City	14	1	1	12	8	46	4

RESERVES

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Knox Park	14	8	4	2	37	16	28
Mitcham Utd	14	8	3	3	44	27	27
Mornington	14	7	3	4	22	22	24
Glenroy	13	7	2	4	37	22	23
Nth Sunshine	14	7	2	5	21	23	23
Melton	14	7	1	6	25	21	22
Sp'vale Condors	13	7	2	4	37	23	20
Ballarat	13	6	1	6	26	25	19
Stn Wanthirna	13	4	5	4	19	21	17
Geel Rangers	14	5	1	8	20	29	16
Keysborough	14	4	2	8	28	33	14
Heidelberg City	13	3	4	6	15	34	13
Old Scotch-Haw	14	1	6	7	23	35	9
Doveton	13	2	2	9	15	38	8



TACKLE DIABETES



STATE LEAGUE — ROUND 21 SUNDAY, 14TH JULY

St. Albans Saints	v	Bentleigh Greens
Thomastown Zebras	v	Pt. Melbourne Sharks
Altona Magic	v	Nth Geelong Warriors
Box Hill Inter	v	Albion Redsox
Green Gully Cavaliers	v	Springvale City Vales
Sunshine Georgies	v	Heidelberg United
Bulleen Lions	v	Fawkner Blues

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION ONE SUNDAY, 14TH JULY ROUND 17

Preston Lions	v	S'vale White Eagles
Richmond	v	Doncaster Rovers
Westgate	v	Northcote City
Glen Eira City	v	Western Suburbs
Croydon City	v	Moorabbin City
Broadmeadows City	v	Kingston City
Werribee City	v	Lalor Utd

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION TWO SATURDAY, 13TH JULY ROUND 17

Westvale	v	Mooroolbark
Regent-Bulla	v	Altona City
Knox City	v	Sth Dandenong
Altona East	v	Oakleigh
Frankston Pines	v	Waverley City
Bell Park	v	East Richmond
Nunawading City	v	Ess. Bruns. Royals

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION THREE SATURDAY, 13TH JULY ROUND 17

Sth Springvale	v	Kingwood City
Banyule City	v	Sth Werribee
Clifton Hill	v	Cranbourne
Pascoe Vale	v	Frankston
Melbourne City	v	Fitzroy City
Chelsea	v	Diamond Valley Utd
Keilor Eagles	v	Sth Caulfield

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION FOUR SATURDAY, 13TH JULY ROUND 17

Moreland City	v	Seaford Utd
Stonnington City	v	Nth Coburg Utd
Monbulk	v	Geelong
Langwarrin	v	Williamstown
Yarravale	v	Sunshine Heights
Corio	v	Sunbury Utd
Lalor	v	Sandringham City

PROVISIONAL LEAGUE DIVISION ONE SATURDAY, 13TH JULY ROUND 15

Sth Wantima	v	Mornington
Heidelberg	v	S'vale Condors
Glenroy	v	Melton
Nth Sunshine	v	Geelong Rangers
Keysborough	v	Old Scotch/Hawt
Mitcham Utd	v	Ballarat (Terrara Park)
Doveton	v	Knox Park

PROVISIONAL LEAGUE DIVISION TWO SATURDAY, 13TH JULY ROUND 15

Lyndale Utd	v	Berwick City
South Yarra	v	Meadow Park
Hampton Park Utd	v	Endeavour Utd
Brunswick City	v	Croxton
East Nun. Eagles	v	Nth Glenroy
Dandenong	v	Hoppers Crossing
Brandon Park	v	Braeside Utd

PROVISIONAL LEAGUE DIVISION THREE METROPOLITAN

SATURDAY, 13TH JULY ROUND 13

Ringwood Rovers	v	Riversdale
Parkmore	v	T'store Eagles
Melb Uni Rangers	v	Elwood City
Keilor Utd	v	Uni Melb. Blues
Monash Uni	v	Newb/Yallourn
Br'meadows Utd	v	Ashburton

PROVISIONAL LEAGUE DIVISION THREE SOUTH/EAST/CENTRAL

SUNDAY, 14TH JULY ROUND 13

Oakleigh Utd	v	Noble Park
Nth Caulfield	v	Flem Falcons
Endeavour Hills	v	Thornbury
Yarra Utd	v	Wav Wanderers
Collingwood City	v	Ivanhoe Utd
East Kew	v	Cam Gr Old Boys

PROVISIONAL LEAGUE DIVISION THREE NORTH/WEST

SUNDAY, 14TH JULY ROUND 13

Northern Utd	v	Sunshine Park
Nth Reservoir	v	Sydenham Park
Mill Park	v	Upfield
Latrobe Uni	v	West Preston
Diamond Valley	v	Whitsea Utd
Keon Park	v	Darebin Utd

SPRINGVALE 0 SUNSHINE 1 BY D TUFFNELL

An 89th penalty miss from Springvale's Pasquale Grella let the Sunshine Georgies off the hook with a scrappy 1-0 win at Ross Reserve on Friday night.

Grella's weak attempt had come just two minutes after the Georgies had taken the lead.

Georgies sweeper Bill Makris' long ball was flapped at by Vales 'keeper Steve Christov and waiting behind him was Spencer Field to poke the ball into the empty net.

The Vales were then handed a lifeline when Anthony Cassar pulled back Gianfranco Impellizzeri following Tony Lettieri's shot.

Georgies 'keeper Steve Wardle had to move just slightly to his left to parry Grella's effort.

Players clashed after the missed spot kick and in the players race after the game in which the Vales, badly needing points, blew a golden opportunity.

VALES: Christov, Lettieri, Carlos, Campagna, Impellizzeri, Grella, Lancaster, Rosa, Dell'Aquila, P. Grella, R. Vargas.

GEORGIES: Wardle, Makris, Cassar, Dragicevic, Field, Nilo, Tsirtsakis, De La Plaza (Bacak), De Bono (Tountas), Spiteri, Stojanovski.

REFEREE: Juergen Annuss.

VOTES: 3 — Carlos (Vales), 2 — Deli'Aquila (Vales), 1 — Dragicevic (Georgies).

BENTLEIGH 1 THOMASTOWN 1 BY G KOUKERIS

The match of the day between Bentleigh Greens and Thomastown Zebras provided an entertaining 1-1 draw in front of a huge crowd at the Kingston Heath Sporting Complex.

The Zebras opened up the referee's score card in the 20th minute as Danny Gnjdic plucked the ball out of a scrum and fired home from close range.

It took just seven minutes for Bentleigh to equalise via a Michael Mazzini tackle on Nick Rossious. Referee Jim Markovski awarded Bentleigh a penalty and Stelios Drakos converted the spot kick.

In the second half it was Bentleigh who controlled proceedings. Jim Kotsovolos was outstanding as his pace and skill showed throughout the afternoon.

Both coaches said their teams efforts were very good.

Bentleigh coach Harry Chalkitis described the result as reasonable.

For Zebras coach Ken Murphy the result was acceptable but mentioned their run home would not be easy.

GREENS: Jones, Drakos, Bakker, Constantinou, Theoharous, Kotsovolos, Charalambous, Kalimeris, Crivari, McDonald, Rossious.

ZEBRAS: Gonzalez, Angelovski, Karic, Della Rocca, Gnjdic, tricarico (Banini), Zinni (Lazarevski), Mazzini (Cuculevski), Iacovitti, Boschini, Ngata.

REFEREE: Jim Markovski.

VOTES: 3 — Kotsovolos (Greens), 2 — Mazzini (Zebras), 1 — Charalambous (Greens).

NTH GEELONG 0 ST ALBANS 3 BY Z MILENKOVSKI

An inspired St Albans outfit outplayed a disappointing North Geelong Warriors at Elcho Park on Sunday.

The 3-0 win for the Saints ended eight successive defeats and increased their survival hopes.

It was all action from the start when Ante Deak brought down Zeljko Gagula in the penalty area. Gagula himself converted the spot kick in the fifth minute.

In the 65th minute a Damir Grganovic 30 metre shot went straight through Joey Didulica to give the Saints a comfortable lead.

The third goal in the 81st minute summed up North's afternoon when a Paul Lewis cross found Paul Magdic who volleyed home.

The Warriors though were without top scorer John Didulica who is off to Croatia for two weeks trial.

WARRIORS: Joey Didulica, Bot, O'Sullivan, Medved, Cosic, McAuliffe (Moore), Deak (Biscan), Dimovski, Cervinski, Skoko, Rajher.

SAINTS: Vunderl, Grganovic, Jolic, Mikulic, Gagula, Razov, Magdic, Lewis, Pelja (Markovac), Mavric, Pondeljak.

REFEREE: Colin Ellis.

VOTES: 3 — Gagula (Saints), 2 — Pelja (Saints), 1 — McAuliffe (Warriors).

HEIDELBERG 4

BULLEEN 0 BY N TZAFERIS

A supreme individual effort in a mere 10 minutes by goalscoring hot shot Bobby Despotovski ended any fleeting hopes Bulleen had of making the finals.

A three goal haul by the ex

West Australian along with a neat Brian MacNicol strike gave the Bergers a victory they richly deserved.

Despotovski showed why he is a leading goal medal chance by outsmarting the Bulleen defence and making the afternoon unbearable for Bulleen's game young 'keeper Anton Cizmadija.

The first of the treble came after 65 minutes when Despotovski sharply turned and shot home. A simple header gave him his second after Cizmadija had saved an Andrew Vlahos strike while the third came courtesy of a clever lob over the young keeper.

But Despotovski missed a glorious chance for a fourth when after having rounded Cizmadija he shot wide when an open goal beckoned.

MacNicol was not to be outdone with the flanker rounding off the days coring the games best goal. After expertly beating a Lions defender MacNicol curled a shot past Cizmadija into the top corner with only three minutes to play.

UNITED: Clarke, Karapatsos (Kiritzoglou), Iosifidis (Tyrikos), Scott (Hasler), Vlahos, Despotovski, Koutos, Fak, Boutsianis, Svigos, MacNicol.

LIONS: Cizmadija, Valentic, Stojcevski (Bresciano), Tsiakos, Slifkas (Barbieri), Sonsini, McAleer, White, Grbac, Di Iorio, Catalano.

REFEREE: Cain Naumcevski.

VOTES: 3 — Despotovski (United), 2 — Vlahos (United), 1 — Boutsianis (United).

ALBION 1 GREEN GULLY 2 BY JOHN RIGAS

Green Gully Cavaliers kept their faint finals hopes alive as they stole a 2-1 victory over a depleted Albion Redsox outfit at Selwyn Park.

Green Gully took the lead in the 21st minute through Warren Spink, excellent lead over work involving Steve Douglas and Tony Necesi set the opportunity up for Spink.

Seven minutes later Ahmet Gupinar equalised for Albion via a Paul Donnelly corner an unmarked Gupinar easily found the back of the net.

Sensations continued in the 63rd minute when Green Gully goalkeeper Chris Vella brought down Martin Collins in the box.

Albion captain Claude Lucchesi's spot kick was well saved by Vella.

The penalty save proved to be the turning point as Gully scored the winner in the 74th minute. A Jani Suric shot was blocked by goalkeeper Robert Brian, Douglas followed up to power the loose ball into an empty goal.

RED SOX: Brian, Gupinar, Lucchesi, Wilson, Donnelly, Grimuad, Geri (Kotzamichalis sent off), Scrobogna (Patsaman), Carter (M. Mustafa), Collins, McMiniee.

CAVALIERS: Vella, Chetcuti, Waddell, Cimino, Douglas, Spink (Brown), Necesi, Suric, Babic, Spiteri, Markovski (Crodden).

REFEREE: Nestor

PREMIER LEAGUE ROUND 20 RESULTS

Springvale City Vales 0 — Sunshine Georgies 1 (Field)
Fawkner Blues 0 — Altona Magic 3 (Becvinovski 3)
Heidelberg United 4 (Despotovski 3, MacNicol) — Bulleen Lions 0
Albion Redsox 1 (Gurpinar) — Green Gully Cavaliers 2 (Spink, Douglas)
Port Melbourne Sharks 4 (Tsaltas, Papadopoulos, Hastie 2) — Box Hill Inter 0
Bentleigh Greens 1 (Drakos) — Thomastown Zebras 1 (Gnjidic)
North Geelong Warriors 0 — St Albans Saints 3 (Gagula, Grganovic, Magdic)

LEADING GOALSCORERS

- 21 Despotovski (Heidelberg)
- 14 Zinni (Thomastown)
- Becvinovski (Altona)
- 12 Alagiozidis (Bentleigh)
- Nilo (Sunshine)
- 11 White (Bulleen)

PASCOE VALE SPORTS SCENE TOP VOTES

- 25 — Alagiozidis (Bentleigh)
- 18 — Cassar (Sunshine)
- 17 — Ngata (Thomastown)
- 16 — Bell (Port Melbourne)
- 15 — Cosic (North Geelong)
- Georgiadis (Heidelberg)

Zachriadis.

VOTES: 3 — Douglas (Cavaliers), 2 — Waddell (Cavaliers), 1 — Geri (Redsox).

REFEREE: Eugene Brazzale.

VOTES: 3 — Becvinovski (Magic), 2 — Tasevski (Magic), 1 — Rusmir (Magic).

FAWKNER 0 ALTONA 3 BY LUKE BUTTIGIEG

Without new signings Brian Bothwell and Ollie Pondeljak due to injury, the Fawkner Blues crashed to a 3-0 thrashing at the hands of Altona Magic thanks to a Sash Becvinovski treble.

Fawkner's Marcus Stergiopoulos, went close early whilst Blues 'keeper Damian Beattie was lucky not to concede an own goal when he pushed a stray backpass across the goal.

A shot then went wide after Beattie lost sight of the ball while looking into the sun before a Michael Branov free kick was tipped over the bar by Darren McGrath.

Becvinovski opened the scoring with a clinical header in the 52nd minute before punishing a poor clearance with his second goal 11 minutes later.

His third goal of the day, and 14th of the season, came in the 88th minute just after Fawkner's Alex Stevanovic was red carded for a second bookable offence.

BLUES: Beattie, Tramontana (Di Sauro), Schipano, Branov, Ferla, Stergiopoulos, Torteovski (De Santis), Mihocic, Stevanovic (sent off), Minichiello, Bordignon.

MAGIC: McGrath, Tasevski, Atanasovski (Cvetkovski), Runje (Bogoevski), Micevski, Markovski, Rusmir, Georgopoulos, Becvinovski, Velkovski, Petrov.

PT MELBOURNE 4 BOX HILL 0 BY D TUFFNELL

The Port Melbourne Sharks are now unbeaten in eight games and still have a slight chance of qualifying for the finals series after their comprehensive 4-0 win over Box Hill Inter on Sunday.

Nick Tsaltas opened the account in the 54th minute after bustling Rick Dal Ben off the ball just near the half-way line and then ran in and beat Sean Keogh.

Substitute Bill Mitroulas set up Nick Papadopoulos for the second with an inch perfect cross onto his head.

Six minutes after midfielder Will Hastie picked up a loose ball before blasting his shot from the edge of the box beyond the reach of Keogh.

Hastie added another two minutes before the end with Mitroulas again supplying the final touch.

SHARKS: Kourtis, Dimitrellos (Komilionis), Kyriakopoulos, Hastie, Palamaras, Bell, Tsaltas, Efstathiou, Papadopoulos (Livanopoulos), Duric (Mitroulas), Latinopoulos.

INTER: Keogh, Tartaglia, Lennon (Sette), Guscic, Dal Ben, Roodhouse, Inglesse (Castro), Chirico (Frezzini), Pansino, Marcen, Tsakiris.

REFEREE: Gerry Connolly.

VOTES: 3 — Hastie (Sharks), 2 — Efstathiou (Sharks), 1 — Bell (Sharks).

NEXT WEEKS FIXTURES

FRIDAY JULY 14

St Albans Saints	v	Bentleigh Greens
Thomastown Zebras	v	Port Melb Sharks
Altona Magic	v	North Geelong Warr
Box Hill Inter	v	Albion Redsox
Green Gully Cavaliers	v	Springvale City Vales
Sunshine Georgies	v	Heidelberg United
Bulleen Lions	v	Fawkner Blues



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PREMIER SENDS COACH PACKING

BY CON STAVROS

Newly appointed South Melbourne coach, Angie Postecoglou, isn't worrying too much about the demanding fans at Bob Jane Stadium this season.

Postecoglou, a former club captain, is more likely to be looking over his shoulder to Victorian Premier and club number one ticket-holder Jeff Kennett, should the Lakers fail to impress.

"Mr Kennett came into the rooms after we beat Olympic last year and said 'good job' to Frank Arok, but that if he didn't get us into the finals, he'd send him back to Sydney," joked Postecoglou.

"Now Frank's at Morwell, which is half-way there, so I'm a little bit worried about what he might do to me."

Postecoglou was assistant coach last year and took over in a caretaker capacity for the final three games of the season after Arok was released.

Whilst South openly chased Zoran Matic, the Adelaide super-coach chose the lucrative appeal of the Collingwood Warriors instead, leaving South with limited options.

"I know Angelo can do the job, he has my complete faith," said club president George Vasilopoulos at the recent annual ball and presentation night when announcing the coach.

Postecoglou's appointment was probably the worst kept secret of the past month, although the new coach drew laughs with mock shock at the announcement.

ANGELO'S DREAM REALISED

"This is the ultimate dream for me," said Postecoglou.

"I grew up with this club as a supporter, player and captain, and this caps it all."

"I want to lead this club to the great heights it deserves."

"This was a disappointing year for us and we have to turn that around and I believe we have started that already with the signings we have made."

POLAK REJOINS THE CLUB

South announced three important signatures on the night, the return of Jason Polak who linked a three-year deal, the snaring of Socceroo Warren Spink for at least two-years and the re-signing of captain Paul Trimboli with an unprecedented three-year contract.

Trimboli had previously only committed himself to one-year extensions.

The club has set itself a target of six internationals in the team for the upcoming season after criticism that last seasons team lacked maturity.

With Trimboli and Kevin Muscat, the addition of Polak and Spink makes four internationals with wild speculation about other

possible signing.

South has definitely approached Lorenz Kindtner and Lou Hristodoulou.

Kindtner played in the Belgian first division with St. Truiden last year, whilst Hristodoulou is expected to return to Greek club Panathinaikos.

Morwell's Ernie Tapai remains a target as does Marconi's Francis Awaritefe.

All the talk it seems however has focussed on midfielders and forwards, with the club's desperate need really being in defence after the difficulties of last season.

In the typically lavish production at their home stadium function centre, South Melbourne turned on the style for their presentation night.

Hosted by television personality Nicki Buckley, the club handed out all its major awards and announced one of the most lucrative sponsorship deals in Australian soccer, with sportswear company Puma pledging \$1 million over the next six years.

The deal involves a radical change in playing strip for South, who will wear a white home shirt with two bold blue vertical stripes and an away shirt of bottle-green and black with white shorts and green socks.

LAKERS IS THE NEW NAME

The new look will compliment the clubs change of name to the South Melbourne Lakers as part of a merchandising and promotional push to foster broader community appeal.

"For the Hellas fans we will always be Hellas," said Vasilopoulos announcing the changes, "but we need to make everyone feel welcome at our games and that means embracing the entire community."

Vasilopoulos specifically asked the senior editors of the various Greek newspapers to help convey the need for this change to their readers.

South however managed to contradict its commendable push into mainstream Australia with the launch of the new club song — a patriotic tune sung entirely in Greek.

TRIMBOLI PLAYER OF THE YEAR

There were no surprises for the Theo Marmaras award for the Player-of-the-Year, with Trimboli outpolling Mike Petersen and Steve Panopoulos to take the title.

Panopoulos got some consolation by winning the Most Improved Player trophy, with the Norwich Financial Services Star of the Future Award going to goalkeeper Michael Petkovic.

The Sam Papasavas award for outstanding contribution to the club went to George Kotzes, owner of the teams main sponsor Southern Motors.



Jason Polak: On his way back to Melbourne from Brisbane with a three year contract.



Paul Trimboli: Awarded the Theo Marmaras-Player of the Year Award for 1995-96 at South.

ALBION SET FOR HIDING

BY CON STAVROS

The average life of an Albion coach may be less than an Elizabeth Taylor marriage, but Gus Macleod is setting himself for a long stay anyway.

On the brink of relegation, the Redsox are due to announce as shortly a move to a new state of the art facility in Melton and are sweating on whether they will be facing Premier League or First Division foes there next season.

Macleod, the fourth coach at the club this season, is confident of avoiding the drop and even thinks one of the clubs remaining six opponents is going to cop a bucketful.

"Someone is going to cop a hiding from us," says Macleod.

"There is a lot of talent here and we are all going to put it together soon."

"We are creating a lot of chances, the problem we've got is that we are just not hitting the back of the net."

"In all honesty we're not that far away, but at the same time we've got to get three points on the board to get the boys believing in themselves."

Macleod took the hot-seat at Selwyn Park with a mission to stay in the Premier League. One of Macleod's first moves was to appoint Jimmy Rooney as an assistant to help with the development of the younger players.

"It's a big job. When you take over a club at the bottom everybody says there is only way and that's up, but you've still got to get them out of that and hopefully the players are starting to believe in themselves," says Macleod.

"I would never have taken this job if I didn't have quality players and this club has some

great players like Robbie Brian, Marty Collins, Claude Lucchesi and Mark Wilson.

"We've got Carlos Retre who is an excellent finisher coming back and Sonny Sevin is back training and those two boys are a big plus."

"If you don't have a few quality players like those guys you are really struggling."

Albion has dominated some of its recent games against finals contenders, but has been unable to make the difference show up on the scoreboard.

"There is a fine line between success and failure and when you are at the bottom nothing goes right," says Macleod.

"It's been a big job lifting the boys up and asking them to keep going and believe in themselves."

"There is nothing wrong with the defence or the middle of the park we just aren't putting the ball in the back of the net."

Macleod was speaking after his team had held league leaders Sunshine to a scoreless draw.

Macleod's first five games in charge have seen just one loss — a 1-0 defeat to Heidelberg. Aside from Sunshine, the Redsox managed to draw with Bulleen and Fawkner and defeat finals contender Altona Magic.

"If I can save this side from relegation I'll be absolutely delighted, that's my main aim," says Macleod.

"We are moving to a massive complex next year at Melton and that will do this club justice."

"We've got fantastic support but like any club we need some success and you can't blame people for not coming if they have to watch the team being beaten every week."

The Redsox face Box Hill this week away in a match that they must win.

HERE COMES PORT

BY CON STAVROS

A glance at the Premier League table suggests that the final five is all settled.

With just half-a-dozen matches left, the gap facing those teams outside of the play-off spots is as daunting as it has ever been in the history of the finals series.

But don't rule Port Melbourne out yet.

The Sharks have surged over the middle part of the season after an extraordinary poor start.

Perhaps still shellshocked over their Preliminary Final exit last year after they dominated the season, Port even went as far as dumping long serving coach Takis Svigos for former Socceroo coach Frank Arok.

Since Arok's reign began, Port has run the complete roller-coaster.

Two immediate stunning losses, one of which was a humiliating 5-1 thumping to the bottom side Albion, threatened to end Arok's reign in dramatic fashion, before Port hit high gear.

The week following the Albion massacre, Port rebounded to thrash Springvale 7-0 on the start of a six game winning streak

that put them in with a mathematical chance for the finals, even though everyone else had been worrying about relegation.

Arok's form reversal was probably enough to get him the Gippsland Falcons coaching job, which he will share with his Sharks' duties, should Port do the unimaginable of a month ago and make the playoffs.

Most surprising in Port's resurgence has been the manner in which the club has disposed of top five opposition.

Port have met three of the top five under Arok's reign so far as well as always difficult Bulleen and dispatched them all with ridiculous ease.

Heidelberg were routed 3-1, Altona Magic were dumped 3-0 and most sensationally of all, league leaders Sunshine were destroyed 5-2.

Port's big test will come this week when they face finals contender Thomastown away needing a win and nothing less.

Should the Sharks prevail get set for a grandstand finish and don't be surprised if Port pulls off the unthinkable and actually goes one better than last year.

VIS TOUR

U/20 0 VIS 1

An opening attack by the VIS, in the 3rd minute, from a defence-splitting through pass from Andy Vargas to Zoran Petrevski, created the first scoring opportunity. Zoran's shot beat the keeper but struck the post.

Daniel Allsopp followed up the rebound but the ball bounced off his chest and out of play.

The first 30 minutes was very competitive with Singapore gradually winning more possession of the ball.

Three changes were made by the VIS before the halftime break — Cassar, Andersen, Ergin, Saric and Petrovski, Petrevski.

The second half began at a frantic pace despite the warm weather. A clever dribble by Andy Vargas, ten minutes into the second period, resulting in a tight cut back into the goal area allowed B. Vassallo to score the goal.

The VIS dominated in spells but the Singapore team created several goal scoring opportunities.

Team: P. Zois, L. Osman (capt.), L. Anastasiou, M. Basevski, M. Anderson, G. Saric, A. Vargas, B. Vassallo, S. Hulusi, Z. Petrevski, D. Allsopp.

Subs.: A. Cuzzupe, E. Ergin, B. Cassar, B. Petrovski, F. Bazzano.



WOMEN'S WRITES

BY JANENE MAR



AUSSIES SCARE GOLD MEDAL FAVOURITES

USA 2

J. Foudy (18) C. Parlow (81)

AUSTRALIA 1

Sharon Black (5)

Yellow Card: Bridgette Starr (24).

The Australian Team kicked off its USA Tour in fantastic fashion last Thursday, going down by just the single goal to Olympic gold medal favourites USA 2-1.

Played at Tampa Stadium in Tampa, Florida before the men's Major League fixture between



Sharon Black: Became the instant hero — scoring against the world's greatest team.

Tampa Bay Mutiny and Columbus Crew, the crowd had the opportunity to see their Olympic Team in action for the first time since the final sixteen was announced a fortnight ago.

The mighty USA, in full-time training since January, found themselves a goal down just five minutes after the opening whistle to the fledgling Aussies. South Australian Sharon Black became the instant hero, blasting the ball into the top corner of the net from 20 metres out.

The home side settled after the early setback, their quality and experience then gaining them the better share of possession. The Aussies needed to fight hard throughout to keep the former World Champions at bay.

USA produced an equaliser in the 18th minute through the strike of veteran central midfielder, Julie Foudy.

Australia remained resolute in their defensive efforts, and put together some good football in the process.

The visiting challengers managed to hold the score level until, with just nine minutes remaining, teenage US striker Cindy Parlow finally broke through. The Americans were more than relieved to see the ball hit the back of the net, bringing the scoreline to 2-1 in their favour.

Australia, who missed qualification for the Atlanta Olympics, were delighted with the result in this opening match of the tour, where they will also provide last minute Olympic preparation for Japan and China after a rematch with hosts USA.

The young and largely inexperienced Australians' efforts showed some promising qualities against arguably the greatest team in international football.

Three players made their international debut in this match — 28 year old mum Shelley Youman, Kelly Golebiowski aged just 14, and US college based Bryony Duus. Golebiowski taking the field in the green and gold marked a new record — she now becomes the youngest player to represent Australia in a full international.

AUSTRALIA: Wheeler; Gegenhuber; McMurtrie; Starr; Black; Casagrande; Cooper; Youman; Peters; Hughes; Boyd.

Substitutes: Golebiowski; Duus.

REMAINING TOUR SCHEDULE

Wed 10 July	Australia v Japan	Miami
Thu 11 July	Australia v China	Bradenton
Sun 14 July	Australia v China	Bradenton



Kelly Golebiowski: Made her international debut — at just 14!

JUNIORS ON A MISSION

The Australian Junior Championship kicked off last Sunday, continuing throughout the week, with the final scheduled for Saturday afternoon.

Southport on Queensland's Gold Coast is this year's host venue and the site for some hotly contested competition between ACT, Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania, Victoria and guests Auckland.

With the recent restructuring of the National Elite program, a National Junior Squad will no longer be selected at the titles.

However recognition of the talent on display in Southport will be made in the form of the naming of a Junior All-Star Eleven.

Assistant National Coach Greg Brown and a committee of assistants will judge the players over the week's event.

Other honours up for grabs are the Most Valuable Player award and the Fair Play Award. These are of course in addition to the traditional all-important Championship Trophy (winner of final) and Association Trophy (1st placed team after preliminary round).

In an attempt to produce exciting and attacking football, new tournament innovations also include the three points for a win format, and the five substitutions ruling.

JUNIORS FACTS AND FIGURES:—

Defending Champions: ACT.

Most Championship wins: NSW (11 times).

Event First Held: 1983 in Canberra.

1996 Youngest Player: 12-year-old Stacey

Stocco (SA) born April 3, 1984.

Club with Most State Reps: Canberra City (ACT); Nelson (TAS); Modbury Vista (SA) all with 6.

Aussies hold USA to close result

The Aussies continued on with their fine form of the first match on the US Tour, repeating their determined performance and proving the opening result was no fluke against hosts USA.

The re-match fixture played at Pensacola soccer complex was captured on film for a delayed television broadcast that same day.

USA, reeling from the unexpected closeness of their last result on the eve of their Olympic campaign, were under pressure to pull out the goods on this occasion.

And it wasn't long before the favourites made their mark.

This time, it was the Americans' who stole the early lead, attacking midfielder Tisha Venturini catching out the Aussies just two minutes after kick-off.

Australia unnerved, got down to the job at hand, showing all the fight and undying commitment that served them so well two days previous against this class opposition.

The single goal remained the difference at the break, the home side unable to again break the shackles.

But four minutes into

USA 2

T. Venturini (2), K. Lilly (49)

AUSTRALIA 1

K. Boyd 88

the second half, USA doubled their lead with a fortunate break.

A seemingly harmless shot from 20 metres from the boot of veteran Kristine Lilly was misjudged by the normally reliable Tracey Wheeler, and snuck inside the post.

Australia fought on and continued to thwart each tide of American attack,

producing the odd scoring chance for themselves, and earning four corners for their efforts.

The Aussies were finally rewarded with a fine goal from striker Katrina Boyd with two minutes to go, the match ending with another impressive scoreline of 2-1.

National coach Tom Sermanni was thrilled

with the performance of his new combination in taking on such a high profile opponent.

"The team as a whole has performed above and beyond our expectations.

Their commitment and passion has more than impressed me.

"For much of the time, it was backs to the wall stuff, but the players showed they can mix it with the best there is."

"My only concern is that now we don't sit back and think the rest of the tour will be easy. We can't afford to relax at all."

INTERNATIONAL RECORD 1996

21 Jan	v	Norway	Hamar, Norway	0-4 loss
15 Feb	v	USA	San Antonio, USA	0-3 loss
17 Feb	v	USA	Houston, USA	0-3 loss
11 Mar	v	Denmark	Lagos, Sweden	2-1 win
13 Mar	v	Finland	Portimao, Sweden	7-0 win
15 Mar	v	Iceland	Olhao, Sweden	1-0 win
17 Mar	v	Norway	Quarteira, Sweden	0-4 loss
12 May	v	Spain	Visby, Sweden	1-1 draw
2 Jan	v	Spain	Gandia, Spain	8-0 win
26 Jun	v	Romania	Campina, Romania	5-0 win
15 Jul	v	Japan	Miami, USA	

SWEDEN EAGER FOR RESULT

Sweden has a long and impressive record in international football and were hosts of last year's World Cup.

There they suffered an unexpected early setback in front of their home crowd, losing the opening match to Brazil 1-0. With wins over Germany and Japan, they managed to still reach the quarter finals. Sweden were unlucky to go down on penalties to China after a 1-1 result, to miss a berth in the semis.

Sweden can boast a tally of over 18,000 registered players aged over fifteen. Since their first international in 1973, the list of international honours reads well.

A third placing at the first World Cup in 1991 is joined by the honour of being the first European Champions, the first event held in

1984.

Since then they have two European silvers and a bronze.

Sweden's preparation this year has been checkered, producing five wins from its ten matches.

The Olympic Team was announced last Monday and includes Swedish legends Pia Sundhage and Lena Videkull. Both these players have been a member of each of the above medal winning teams. With over 250 internationals and 137 goals between them, they have been the driving force behind the success of Swedish football. Sundhage is aged 36 and made her international debut back in 1975. Nine players remain from last year's World Cup Team.

SWEDEN'S OLYMPIC TEAM

Player	Age	Caps	Goals
Annelie Nilsson	25	22	1-
Ulrika Karlsson	25	5	1-
Cecilia Sandell	28	14	1-
Asa Jakobsson	30	51	1/1
Annika Nessvold	25	30	1/5
Kristin Bengtsson	26	45	1/3
Camilla Svensson	27	15	1-
Anna Pohjanen	22	22	6-
Pia Sundhage	36	142	1/71
Malin Swedberg	27	48	1/3
Malin Andersson	23	32	1/13
Ulrika Kalte	26	51	1/20
Lena Videkull	33	106	1/66
Maria Kun	23	2	1-
Julia Carlsson	21	4	1-
Hanna Ljungberg	17	2	1/1
National Coach — Bengt Simonson			
Assistant Coach — Marika Domanski-Lyfors			



SOUTH AMERICA

— COMPILED BY MARIO ETCHART —



ARGENTINE FIRST DIVISION

— July 1 —

Deportivo Espanol	1	Platense	0
TABLE			
Velez Sarsfield	15	9	5 1 34 16 32
Boca Juniors	15	9	2 4 24 21 29
Estudiantes	15	8	5 2 24 19 29
Gimnasia La Plata	15	9	2 4 31 19 29
Lanus	14	9	2 3 30 17 29
Racing Club	15	7	5 3 24 16 26
Rosario Central	14	6	5 3 23 14 23
Huracan	15	5	7 3 23 23 22
Independiente	15	5	5 5 20 21 20
River Plate	15	6	1 7 28 24 19
Belgrano	15	5	3 7 20 23 18
Deportivo Espanol	15	4	6 5 16 17 18
Gimnasia Jujuy	15	5	2 8 19 34 17
Colon	15	4	4 7 14 19 16
Platense	15	5	1 9 19 25 16
Ferro C. Oeste	15	3	7 5 11 18 16
Banfield	15	3	5 7 19 20 14
San Lorenzo	15	3	4 8 12 21 13
Newell's	14	1	7 6 15 24 10

MARADONA IN EXPENSIVE JAPANESE VENTURE

Former Argentine captain Diego Maradona is set to sign a \$25 million two-year contract with a Japanese club, his manager Guillermo Coppola said on Thursday.

The 35-year-old midfielder should sign the deal within the next few days, provided he can obtain a visa, state-owned Telam news agency reported. The Japanese club was not named.

"Diego hasn't forgotten that once they did not let him into

Japan because he had a criminal case pending for taking drugs," Coppola said.

Japanese authorities barred Maradona, currently with Argentine side Boca Juniors, from playing in a warm-up match in their country before the 1994 World Cup finals because of cases pending involving the use of cocaine.

If he is granted a visa, Maradona would join the club in August.

Maradona is currently facing criminal proceedings for firing an air rifle at journalists outside his Buenos Aires mansion in February 1994.

State prosecutor Guillermo Altuve said that Maradona "will have to present the conditions under which he wishes to make any journey and the judge can choose to accept them or not".



Maradona: Could he be off to J-League? If he goes he could sign \$25m contract.

Penarol prove masters

Penarol after its 2-0 victory over Wanderers won the 1996 Uruguay league first phase, adding another title to its history.

Midfielders Danilo Baltierra and Robert Lima in the 41st and 56th minutes gave the Uruguayan giants a new championship, their fourth consecutive success.

Five times winner of the Libertadores Cup, in 1960, 1961, 1966, 1983 and 1987, and three times World Cup champions, in 1961, 1966 and 1982, Penarol has been, without any doubt, the strongest force in the country in the last few years.

Under a solid management led by president and powerful banker Jose Damiani, the champions have a sound financial record, the best squad in the league, and a very competent coaching staff headed by Jorge Fosatti, a former goalkeeper who replaced Gregorio Perez as coach at the beginning of the current season.

Perez guided Penarol to win three consecutive Uruguayan championships (1993, 1994, 1995), before he signed with Argentine club Independiente at the beginning of 1996.

However, two months ago, the talented tactician resigned from his post and travelled to Italy to take the coaching position with Cagliari.

A mix of experience and youth, and strict discipline, has been the secret of Penarol's success in recent times.

Veteran attacking midfielder and Uruguayan international, Pablo Bengoechea has been instrumental in this success, together with defenders Oscar Aguirregaray Washington Tars, and Carlos Soca, striker Luis Romero and youngsters Antonio Pacheco Gonzalez De Los Santos, Federico Magallanes, Haverley Sosa and Nelson Oliveira.

Last week, Penarol signed Alphonse Tchami, the former Cameroon international striker, who played for Argentine club Boca Juniors the last two seasons. Tchami will be on loan for one year with Penarol having the option to buy him at the end of the contract.

Eighteen months ago, Boca Juniors paid 1.8 million dollars for Tchami to join them.

Meanwhile, arch-rival Nacional is going through one of its regular financial crises with debts reaching

several millions of dollars and a very unstable team and coaching staff.

Nacional has had two different coaches in the last seven months without any improvement, and finished in 3rd position, behind Penarol and Defensor Sporting.

Bulgaria's Hristo Stoichkov and Romanian George Hagi could play for Argentine giant Boca Juniors if the club and the player's agents reach an agreement.

Both showed great interest in playing alongside Diego Maradona in the very competitive Argentine First Division.

If such agreement is reached, Stoichkov and Hagi could end up in Buenos Aires after the Atlanta Olympic Games.

Flamengo won the Rio de Janeiro championship after a 0-0 with arch-rivals Vasco Da Gama in the last match of the competition.

It was Romario's farewell and a dream come true for the star striker who scored 26 goals in 22 matches for Flamengo creating a record for the local league.

Romario will continue his career with first division Spanish club Valencia, from August after a reported 7 million dollar contract for two seasons.

In other news from South America, Libertadores Cup champions River Plate will have a new coach next month if the Club's Board decide to sack former Argentine striker Ramon Diaz.

The new coach could be former Uruguayan international star and South American "Player of the Year", Enzo Francescoli, who has indicated his interest in the position. Other candidates are San Lorenzo's manager Hector Veira and Universidad of Chile's coach Miguel Russo, who is also wanted by Argentine champions Velez Sarsfield to replace Carlos Bilardo.

Bilardo, who coached Velez for the last time when his team beat Colon 2-1 for the Argentine league first phase signed with Italian club Roma. Travelling with him is Argentina international defender Roberto Trotta, who has also signed for the Romans.

Under the guidance of Carlos Bianchi, Velez Sarsfield won three Argentine championships, one Libertadores Cup, one Toyota Cup and one Inter America Cup.

BIRMINGHAM CITY DOWN THE MIDDLESBOROUGH ROAD?

by Henry Wizgler



Jean-Pierre Papin: Could he be on the way to St Andrews from Bundesliga club Bayern Munich.

The irony about Birmingham City FC is that the club which bears England's 'second-city's' name, have always been Birmingham's 'other club', having had to live in the shadow of mighty Aston Villa from the north side of the city.

As if that wasn't bad enough, they've even had to watch with envy as the Greater Birmingham metropolis (or West Midlands as it is officially known), has thrown up two other great clubs down the years - Wolverhampton Wanderers and West Bromwich Albion.

But now the Blues prodigal son has returned to try and put this potential sleeping giant of English football up where they've always felt, but never believed, they belong.

Trevor Francis (below) burst onto the English football scene with the Birmingham City as a 16 year-old teenage sensation way back in 1970 and made headlines again nine years later when he became the subject of Britain's first ever million pound transfer - the sum Brian Clough paid to lure him to reigning Champions Nottingham Forest.



Francis repaid that sum almost immediately when he scored the only goal to win Forest their first European Champions Cup against Malmo of Sweden in Munich.

That was the highpoint of his playing career which also included a stint at Sampdoria before turning his talents to the managerial game.

Queens Park Rangers, West London's perennial 'sleeping-minnows' were a good place to start before trying his luck with a former 'big-fish', Sheffield Wednesday and a deep, if not bottomless sack of cash to play with.

He got close, giving the Hillsborough club a sniff of success by taking them to two Cup finals, the FA and League, but that wasn't good enough for the ambitious Yorkshiremen.

Back to his roots now, Francis reign at St. Andrews began with a bang as he snared Manchester United's captain Steve Bruce in a 1.7 million pound deal which will net the former double winner an amazing \$35,000 per week for the next two years.

His next move was to catch a proven international striker, but Galatasaray's

Welshman Dean Saunders ironically chose the club Francis had gained his own greatest glory with - Nottingham Forest instead.

Undeterred, his alternative move is one of those brave and imaginative ideas that could either end in glory or disintegrate into spectacular failure.

Jean Pierre Papin the disillusioned former French international has had enough of warming the Bayern Munich bench, watching Klinsmann and Kostadinov getting all the glory.

So now the former Brugge, Marseilles and Milan star has been lined up to lead an attack which Francis hopes will finally carry the midlands greatest under-achievers back to the premier league and eventually - real success.

With an ambitious and cash-loaded board behind him, Trevor Francis is confident that the 32 year-old Frenchman can be lured to St. Andrews where Birmingham City aim to emulate Middlesbrough, another club with a proud long history - but no silverware to show for it.

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So that's it then, another season has finally come to an end now that the Euro 96 tournament is over. Over, bar the shouting that is!

As mentioned in here a couple of issues ago, the idea of "Golden Goal" time was met with muted mistrust by players and supporters alike and would no doubt be lambasted as soon as a controversial (or lucky?) goal was scored. This happened in the final itself.

For mine, the German player should have been flagged off-side as he had to be considered as interfering with play from the position he was in.

The 'keeper must have been caught in two minds as to whether he should block the shot, catch the ball or punch it clear, whilst keeping an eye on him, because the wrong choice would have resulted in the player being in the off-side position pouncing for a tap-in.

By this time it would have been too late to flag as the 'keeper would have played him "on-side".

As things turned out, he got a very weak touch on the ball and it virtually slid off his gloves and crept in at his far post. End of match under the new rulings.

NEW IDEA

Had the proposal we put together last week been in force, the match would have continued until the full 30 minute extra-time had been played out.

The Czech's would have had to score twice in the remaining time to win the game as they could no longer go to penalties by virtue of that goal.

However, had the result stayed at 0-0 throughout, penalties would have decided the game, no worries there.

Had the game remained at 1-1 from normal time and through the extra-time periods, the team that scored first in normal time would have won the match whereby the score being any sort of draw up until extra-time, and with each side scoring one or more each in extra-time but still remaining as a draw, the team scoring first in extra-time is deemed the winner.

ATTACK

If this were adopted, it would be in any teams best interest to attack from the start, although not many international matches end in draws except in tournament finals it seems?

Some of you, having read that system in it's entirety last week, have been good enough to pass on your remarks about it (please send your views to the address above) and one that caught my eye was from Dave Hunt in Gerringong, NSW who wrote: GREAT IDEA MICKY!!

I admit that not a lot else was written but knowing Dave will be reading this, if you



spot a bloke in any Arsenal gear fishing off a bridge down that way this week, or perhaps in Mick Cronin's fine establishment one evening...?

TWO REFS

On the subject of new rulings, it appears that the idea has finally been put forward to the governing body that a fourth official used ON THE PITCH could be the answer to a lot of problems. With an extra official being on the field of play, it means that each referee has only half a pitch to run on which in turn leads to:

- 1/ keeping up with play
- 2/ being in the right position for off-side calls
- 3/ being in position to see the last ditch tackles without an obstructed view
- 4/ taking the "guesswork" (percentage call) out of some decisions
- 5/ being able to over-rule linesmen from a better vantage point

All of this will lead to a lot less time-wasting, dodgy decisions, diving, cynical tackles and hopefully, the intervention from "trial by video".

This is used in gridiron in America and seems quite suited for that style of game with bodies going in all directions etc but not in footie thank you. "To err is to be human", too much interference would only make the game sterile and take another hour to play as we wait for yet another disputed goal, hand-ball, foul, corner or throw-in, free kick...

I've been a strong advocate of using a fourth official on the field of play and would love to see some trials done using it, as they did with the "kick-in" a couple of seasons ago. That proved a fruitless exercise in the long run but at least it was tried.

STAR COACH

Don't forget that you can be coached by Norman Whiteside, former Manchester United, Everton and Northern Ireland star, this week at Blacktown City Demons Soccer Club on Thursday and Friday and at Breakers Stadium, Newcastle on Wednesday.

South Australia put on its show at Birkalla Soccer Club yesterday.

Also helping out with the coaching duties will be Frank Farina, Francis Awaritefe, and Matt Bingley. Further details by ringing Ken Schembri on (02) 899 4016 or Lawrie McKinna on 018 463 834. Participants can pay on the day subject to vacancies of course, but it promises to be a lot of fun while you learn.

Anyone from other states wishing to know more about Soccer Coaching International (SCI) and when they'll be holding clinics in their area can contact them at: SCI, PO Box 374, North Beach, WA 6020.

At least one person entering these coaching



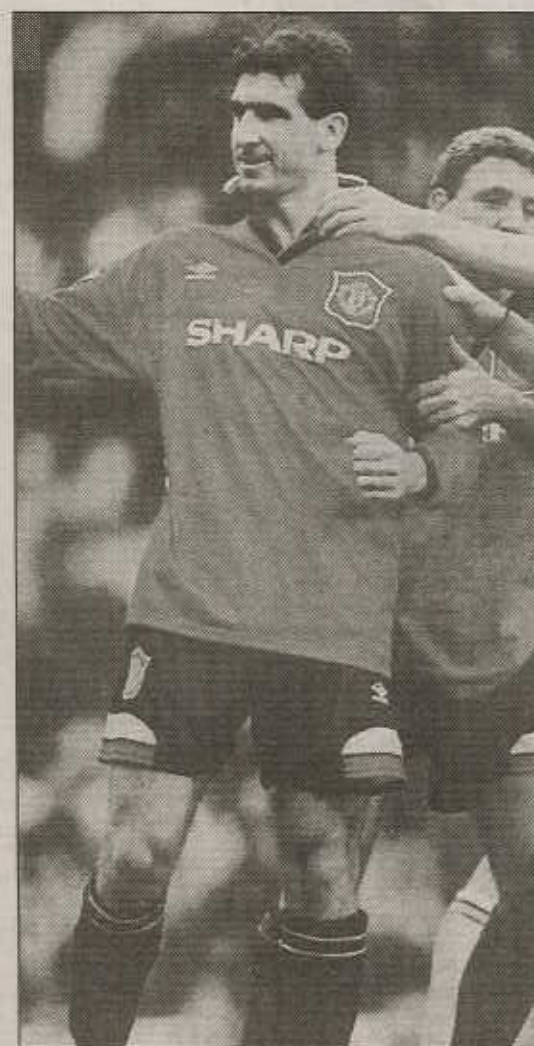
courses each year will win an all expenses trip to train with a top European football club and it could be you but as usual, you've got to be in to win it!

ANDY COLE

There can be no question as to the ambitions of Alex Ferguson and Manchester United but those of Blacktown Rovers must be



Andy Cole: Hasn't hit it off at Old Trafford.



Eric Cantona: Will Alan Shearer be playing under his captaincy next season.

examined closely.

Fergie wants United to win the European Cup — as England's representatives in this competition, so does every English football fan — but with much speculation as to Shearer and Cole doing a swap, plus a small matter of 12 million too! You can only wonder.

Rovers have built a side around Shearer, playing to his strengths, as his 30 odd league goals in each of his seasons at Ewood Park testify to. (Not a bad buy at a mere 3.5 million as things turned out but a princely sum even those few short years ago).

Andy Cole on the other hand, hasn't hit it off at Old Trafford which is not surprising since his move from Newcastle. At St James Park he was better served for his talents. The Red Devils play a different style of football which the lad hasn't been able to come to terms with, unfortunately.

A swap deal, not considering the vast wads of cash that go with it, would have to be seen as a retrograde step for Rovers as it's hard to see Andy Cole fitting into their style either.

Poor old Cole is a magnificent goal-poacher, has electric speed over the first few yards — a la Lineker — but perhaps the change in style and the 7.5m price tag weighing heavily around his neck, have been too much of a burden in Manchester although he collected an FA Cup and championship medal with the side last season at least.

A move could re-ignite the form he showed with Newcastle but whether one to Rovers is the answer, is debatable. The deal is not, as yet finalised of course and anything could happen and as Jimmy Greaves always says: "It's a funny old game."

IRISH GUIDE

The wonderful series of books entitled: A Supporters Guide To, has at long last produced a new inclusion by popular request. For the first time, the 1997 publications will include Irish Football. A rough idea of what these books cater for is as follows: Supporters Guide to Irish Football — 1997

With the top 32 Northern Ireland and the top 22 Republic clubs included in the one book. Addresses, pitch sizes, club shop numbers, ground capacity etc. Also includes the results and tables of the previous season.

Scottish Football, Premier and Football League Clubs,

Non-League Football, Welsh Football and Football Programs make up the other five books in this annual series.

These books can be bought singularly at \$25 each or \$130 for the lot \$120 AFSA Members). Available in September, if you order a complete set now, you may deduct a further \$5 from the price but only if ordered before the end of July.

25 YEARS

Other books at \$25 (\$24 each AFSA Members) each include the very popular 25 Year Record Series (1971-96) which will include Aberdeen, Middlesbrough, Southampton, Chelsea, Preston North End and Wolverhampton Wanderers to their list from late August.

These join the 1970-1995 editions of: Everton, Man Utd, Rangers, Notts Forest*, Liverpool, Newcastle, Leeds, Derby County, Celtic, Aston Villa and Burnley* (*1969-94).

The books contain the league records for each year, including substitutions, and a round by round account of cup competitions and the final standings of each term. Others are expected to be added to this range in future.

As ever, the latest "highlights" and other videos are available through us and when ordering, please print your name and address clearly and send them to: PO BOX 56, KINGSWAY WEST, NSW 2208 along with a cheque money order made payable UKSSD please.



All prices include airmail postage from the UK and a full refund is given if the item ordered is no longer available but please choose books, videos, flags etc carefully as they cannot be exchanged if you do not like them and please look around for cheaper prices elsewhere, let us know if you find them.



.....Scottish Grounds and Clubs.....

BY STUART JONES

ALLOA ATHLETIC FC

Ground:	Recreation Park
Address:	Clackmannan Road Alloa FK10 1RR
Railway Station:	Stirling (7 miles)
Founded:	1883
Admitted to League:	1921
Ground Capacity:	4100
Seats:	424
Pitch Size:	110 yards by 75 yards
Largest Gate:	15,467 vs Celtic 2nd Feb 1955 (Scottish Cup)
Biggest Win:	9-2 vs Forfar Athletic Div 2, 18 March 1933
Biggest Loss:	0-10 vs Dundee Div 2, 8 March 1947 0-10 vs Third Lanark League Cup, 8 Aug 1953
Nickname:	The Wasps
Colours:	Gold and Black
Honours:	League: Division 2, 1921-22

History: The club officially started in 1883.

However before that they began playing in a public park in 1880.

In 1882 they changed their name to Alloa and moved to Gaberston Park, then moving to Bellevue Park in 1883.

The move failed to gain the support of crowds they were looking for so the club moved to Recreation Park in 1895.

In 1922 Alloa became the first Scottish club to be promoted after the previous system of election into Division

One was dispensed with.

This happened to also be their first ever league season. In contrast neighbours Clackmannan finished last and never appeared in the Scottish Leagues again!

The club used floodlights for the first time in the 1979/80 season, relatively late compared to most British grounds, indeed they were the second last Scottish club to install them.

The ground itself is wide and open with hardly any barriers or terraces.

The town itself is a

brewery town in the midst of what was a mining area.

The Tory governments policy to mining has affected the town, and therefore the clubs viability.

Even in 1987 Simon Inglis in "Football Grounds of Great Britain" was questioning that viability, so how much more is it to be questioned today.

Last season the club finished equal on points with Albion Rovers but just ahead of them on goal difference.

Rovers came last in Division Three!

WEIRD AND WONDERFUL

By Stuart Jones

The tabloids went into overdrive this week with the reported 19 million pound offer for Alan Shearer, Andy Cole (right), plus 12 million cash. However both Manchester United and Blackburn are denying the transfer is on.

If it was true Blackburn could surely hold out for more, say 25 million, because its obvious United would do just about anything to get Shearer (left). They could then go out and buy three of the best strikers in the world with that money.



No one player is worth that kind of money.

In other transfer news Andy Booth is up for sale at Huddersfield. This is a real shock as the Terriers forward line will be much weakened if they lose Booth.

For a side aiming to leave the lower leagues and to regain the place they had among the footballing elite in the 1920s, selling your best player is not the way to go. It is said Sheffield Wednesday are interested.

Yet again Hristo Stoichkov's name has been linked to a British club, this time Arsenal. Apparently the transfer would be around 2.5 million, but the real blow in the deal could be Stoichkov's wage — reportedly around one million a year — and Arsenal would not pay anything like that.

Tony Cotton may be on his way to Sunderland according to some media reports. However if the Rokerites can afford Cotton (around the 500,000 pound mark) then maybe they should save up a bit more and again bid for young Shay from Blackburn, who's



star is shining much brighter.

Wanted Top club with great players, a great history, plenty of prestige and playing in the Premier League (preferably in Europe). Needs to have the Managers position vacant. One former Premier League manager who has been out of the football scene for twelve months due to some unfortunate incidents involving money that he did not keep, is returning.

Preferably you will have one striker and nine fullbacks and your supporters enjoy a good nap when they come and see the team play.

Its a great opportunity for supporters to learn how to sing 1-0 to the ... in real celebration mode as they have flogged the opposition. All offers to Mr G. Graham London (former address Highbury). PS Please any clubs with Scandinavian players need not apply this manager has good contacts to get only the best players from there (e.g. Jensen, Lydersen, Linpar — names not forgotten, least of all by Mr Graham).

After recovering from England's loss my congratulations goes to the whole team. They showed the world that they really can play football and were involved in some of the best games in Euro 96.

Well done to them all, but especially Seaman, McManaman, Ince, and Southgate (despite his miss) who had tremendous tournaments.

Also well done to Gary Neville who was sorely missed in the semi final. Tony Adams (right) was a marvellous captain and should have been captain years ago.

He is a GREAT player when it comes to heart and commitment. Glenn Hoddle has a marvellous legacy from Terry Venables.

It goes to show that the FIFA ratings which had England behind Tunisia are a joke. Okay they had it right about the Czech Republic but that is about it.

They need to look at that system and work out a fairer way of rating countries performances.

Venables leaves the managers jobs having used 47 players, Alan Shearer (21) Teddy Sheringham (18), Tony Adams, David Platt, David Seaman (17), Darren Anderton (17), Paul Gascoigne, Steve McManaman, Stuart Pearce (15), Gary Neville (14), Graeme Le Saux (12), Paul Ince (11), Peter Beardsley (10), Nick Barmby, Gareth Southgate, Steve Stone (9), Gary Pallister (8), Tim Flowers, Robert Lee, Dennis Wise (7) John Barnes, Rob Jones, Matthew Le Tissier (6), Robbie Fowler, Jamie Redknapp (5), Les Ferdinand, Steve Howey, Ian Wright (4), Warren Barton, David Batty, John Scales (3), Steve Bould, Sol Campbell, Stan Collymore, Colin Cooper, Barry Venison, Ian Walker, Mark Wright (2), Andy Cole, Ugo Ehiogu, Paul Merson, Philip Neville, Paul Parker, Kevin Richardson, Neil Ruddock, David Unsworth, Jason Wilcox (1).

John Beresford, John Salako, Richard Shaw, Tim Sherwood, Trevor Sinclair, Des Walker, and Alan Wright were named in Venables squads but did not win a cap for England.

Of those players only 5 were former or current Spurs players so there is a misconception that Venables showed bias toward Spurs players when choosing his squads.

After the semi we at least knew Germany could play interesting football. Their veins must be made of ice though, they got out of some very tight positions to win Euro 96, and some of their performances were effective but not always entertaining. But Germany did not always win by the odd goal or few.

In the 1954 World Cup West Germany played 6 games to win it. They scored 25 goals and conceded 14. In comparison Brazil won USA 94 scoring only 11 goals and conceding 3 in seven games!



RAVANELLI TO THE RIVERSIDE

Middlesbrough completed the signing last week of Italian star Fabrizio Ravanelli in a four-year deal worth \$A14.05 million.

"It goes without saying that we are delighted to have signed the player from Juventus," said a Middlesbrough spokesman.

Juventus was willing to release Ravanelli to buy Udinese's Oliver Bierhoff, who scored both Germany's goals in the European championship final at Wembley.

Ravanelli, famous for his prematurely greying hair at the age of 27, said he had weighed up his options carefully.

The striker, who scored Juventus' goal in last month's European Cup final against Ajax, which the Italians eventually won on penalties, said he had originally hoped to stay with Juventus.

"There's one thing I want to make people aware of - it's not me who wants to leave but Juventus who are making me go," he said.

RAVANELLI ANGRY WITH FORMER CLUB

Fabrizio Ravanelli vented his bitterness last week at being sold by Italian giant Juventus to English Premiership side Middlesbrough in one of the biggest transfer deals in English soccer.

But there was no mistaking the bitterness at being axed after four years, just when he was hoping to take over as team captain from Chelsea-bound strike partner Gianluca Vialli.

"Juventus have sold me, and I feel sorry for the fans, my teammates and for the club. For a Juventus man like myself, it's not easy to say goodbye to the fans," the 27-year-old Euro '96 failure said.

"I've suffered so much for the Juventus jersey, I've worked hard, but unfortunately I have to accept they no longer need me.

NORWEGIANS MIGHT?

English double champion Manchester United signed Norwegian international Ronnie Johnsen and Ole Gunnar Solskjar last week.

Central defender Johnsen joins United from Turkish club Besiktas for \$A2.39 million on a five-year contract, while striker Solskjar comes from Norwegian club Molde for \$A3 million.

Solskjar will see out the remainder of the Norwegian season and link up with his new team mates in late July or early August.

"I am delighted with the signings," Ferguson, who guided United to the premier league and FA Cup titles last season, said.

"Ronnie is tall, quick and strong in the tackle. He will



provide excellent competition for places in defence. He is experienced and will have little difficulty in settling in.

"As for Ole, he is a player for the future but he's certainly a forward who has an eye for goal."

Foreign player influx questioned

English Professional Footballers Association President, Gordon Taylor on Friday voiced concern about the growing influx of foreign players into England's premier league.

England has become attractive to top overseas players, with television ploughing millions of dollars into the game.

Middlesbrough signed striker Fabrizio Ravanelli from Juventus for \$A13.97 million and fellow Italians Gianluca Vialli and Roberto Di Matteo have joined Chelsea.

West Ham has paid a club record \$3.75 million for Romanian striker Florin Raducioiu, who will link up with another ex-AC Milan player, Portugal's Paulo Futre.

Taylor, says the game's leaders should follow the example of the Netherlands to ensure the correct development of young players.

"Their TV deal has a ruling which says that 25 percent of that money should be used in coaching and development. That is what I would like to see here."

"The pattern now is to go for a ready-made international rather than a rough-diamond. Clubs want ready-made success. Most are not prepared to be patient.

"The North East used to be a regular breeding ground with people like Alan Shearer, Paul Gascoigne, Chris Waddle and Peter Beardsley coming through.

"Now Newcastle and Middlesbrough are turning instead to seasoned internationals. That might be good from a spectator's point of view but we need to strike a balance and help the young players.

"West Ham got to the youth cup final last season. Yet how many of that team is going to break through, now they are signing so many players from abroad?"

UK STORIES

Chelsea sign Lazio star

Italian star Roberto Di Matteo confirmed last week he will move to Ruud Gullit's Chelsea next season, while his former club Lazio said it had tried to keep the Swiss-born midfielder but could manage without him.

Italian newspapers said the four-year deal taking the 26-year-old player to the English premier league club was worth \$A11.66 million and he would earn \$A1 million a season.

Di Matteo said he had told the Rome club before that he would leave if an interesting offer came along.

"My decision is for personal reasons and it is not true I am just going for the money," he said. "Lazio have got a good price, much more than they paid when they signed me."

Di Matteo is player-manager Gullit's third big close-season signing. Gullit, formerly of AC Milan, has already brought Italian striker Gianluca Vialli and French defender Franck Leboeuf to Stamford Bridge.

"Di Matteo was unmoveable," Lazio president Dino Zoff said. "I don't know why he wanted to leave but he was really determined. He found a club ready to pay what we were asking."

The club's major shareholder Sergio Cragnotti added, "Di Matteo is good but he is not irreplaceable."



Roberto Di Matteo: The Italian Connection continues to grow at the Bridge.

Leeds splash out 5 million for teen

Leeds United manager Howard Wilkinson splashed out \$A5.2 million to make midfielder Lee Bowyer Britain's most expensive soccer teenager last week.

Wilkinson, armed with around \$A24 million after the club's sale to media group Caspian last week, beat off competition from premier league rivals Liverpool, West Ham,

Coventry and Sheffield Wednesday to recruit the 19-year-old Bowyer from Charlton.

"In my opinion he is the best young player I've seen for a long time," said Wilkinson, who is hoping to restore the former champion to glory after it finished in the bottom half of the league last season.

Ferguson has millions to spend

English champion Manchester United last week confirmed it was in the running to sign brilliant Czech Republic winger Karel Poborsky.

Rival Liverpool ruled itself out of the race to capture the long-haired 24-year-old midfielder, who was one of the stars of Euro 96.

A spokesman for United, which won 'the Double' last season, said it has lodged a \$A7.16 million bid to Poborsky's club, Slavia Prague, and is awaiting a response.

However, the Old Trafford outfit faces stiff competition, with Italian giants Lazio also officially in the battle to land Poborsky.

It is believed the Rome club offered the player a highly lucrative deal to take him to Italy.

Slavia Prague still has him under contract for 12 months, but will reluctantly cash in to avoid losing out under the Bosman ruling, which makes out-of-contract players free agents in moves within Europe.

Poborsky enhanced his reputation during Euro 96 as he helped the Czech Republic reach the final.

United manager Alex Ferguson reportedly has \$A40 million to spend, with Blackburn Rovers' England star Alan Shearer, the top goal-scorer of Euro 96, also on his wanted list.

The 25-year-old Blackburn

marksman, also the country's top club scorer with 37 goals last term, added to his reputation by firing five more during Euro 96.

The Daily Mirror reported

that Ferguson has made an official \$12.5million (\$A24.8 million) bid - even though its Lancastrian rival has insisted Shearer is not for sale.



Alex Ferguson: \$40 million to buy even more success.

"I've got the ball, so there"

An English soccer fan has taken revenge on Euro 96 winner Germany.

Peter Gibbons, 33, is refusing to give the German's their ball back after Sunday's final, remembering how in 1966 German player, Helmut Haller made off with the World Cup final ball.

It was eventually tracked down earlier this year and has now been returned to English hat-trick scorer Geoff Hurst.

Gibbons smuggled the Euro 96 ball out under his

shirt on Sunday after it was booted into the Wembley crowd by a jubilant player as the game ended.

Gibbons told last Tuesday's Sun newspaper: "I call it poetic justice."



Hammers move further from roots

Portuguese international striker Paulo Futre joined West Ham last week on a two-year contract with an option for a third year.

Futre, 30, was signed on a free transfer from AC Milan where he played just four games last season due to a knee injury.

"I have had a bad time and a difficult operation but I've been training since March and I'm now okay," Futre said at Upton Park.

"I hope nothing will happen again."

Futre joins a foreign legion at West Ham which includes Croatian Slaven Bilic, Denmark's Marc Reiper, Czech Ludek Miklosko, Romania's Ilie Dumitrescu and Australia's Robbie Slater.

He started his career at Sporting Lisbon before moving to Atletico Madrid, Porto, Benfica, Marseille, Reggiana and Milan.

Now Romanian striker Florin Raducioiu has joined the English Premier League

club.

West Ham officials said they had paid a record \$A4.82 million to Spanish club Espanyol for the former AC Milan forward.

The London Cockney club has traditionally been the spiritual home of the metropolises 'East Enders' and most of their greatest heroes such as Bobby Moore, Martin Peters and Trevor Brooking have come from no further east than the county of Essex.

additional European accents should make an interesting blend with the native Cockney.

West Ham also signed defender Richard Hall, 24, today.

The former England under-21 captain quit premier league Southampton after failing to agree new contract terms with the club.

The fee for his transfer will be decided by a tribunal, with Southampton demanding around \$A3 million.



Southampton go with Souness

Former Liverpool and Rangers manager Graeme Souness was appointed coach of English Premiership soccer club Southampton.

Souness, sacked by Turkish side Galatasaray at the end of last season, will be in charge of team affairs while former

assistant English manager Lawrie McMenemy will be in overall charge of the club.

Southampton sacked Dave Merrington at the end of last season, after the Saints drew 0-0 with Wimbledon to avoid relegation.



Graeme Souness: Returns to English football — at the bottom.

Germans thank English hosts

The winning German Euro 96 team took out a full-page ad in Wednesday's (London) Times newspaper to thank England for its hospitality.

The ad featured a photo of the team holding the cup, with the words, "Many thanks for the great hospitality in England, for the fair play shown by the English public, for the smooth organisation of Euro 96."

Placed by the delegation and national team of the German Football Association, the ad also said: "Football Came Home and England Felt Like Home".

Association spokesman Wolfgang Niersbach told the Times the Germans had been received with warmth and hospitality by everyone during their stay in England.

He dismissed as "laughable and ridiculous" anti-German coverage in the British tabloids in the days before Germany's semi-final match with England.

"Maybe people in Germany thought there was a bad atmosphere, but there wasn't,"

Niersbach said.

The Times said the advertisement cost almost \$A40,000.



Paulo Futre: Yet another foreign 'bubble-blower' at the Boleyn Ground.

NSW SOCCER FEDERATION SUPER LEAGUE



BLACKTOWN
CITY DEMONS

1995

BACK ROW: Steve Berry, Adam Whan, Jason Connolly, Damien Foxe.

MIDDLE ROW: David Scott, Scott Ashton, Dragan Pupovac, Andrew Crews, Gary Comerford, Fernando Drakes.

FRONT ROW: Damon Langan, Antony Versi, Martin Driene, Andrew Brockbank, Warren Hayward, Sarkis Bordaher, Anthony Gigliotti.